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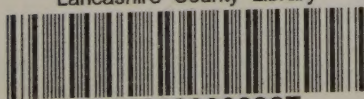
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INDEX MAP

OF THE DISTRICT ROUND ABOUT BRADFORD.

Scale of Miles.



ROUND ABOUT BRADFORD:

A SERIES OF SKETCHES

(DESCRIPTIVE AND SEMI-HISTORICAL)

OF

FORTY-TWO PLACES WITHIN SIX MILES
OF BRADFORD.

BY WILLIAM CUDWORTH.

BRADFORD: THOMAS BREAR, 17 & 19, KIRKGATE.

—
1876.

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Bradford

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TO THE
HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF STERLING YORKSHIRE
MEN AND WOMEN RESIDING IN THE DISTRICT
"ROUND ABOUT BRADFORD,"

AND TO THE
MANY THOUSANDS
WHO HAVE REMOVED TO DISTANT PLACES,

THIS VOLUME
IS MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED BY
THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E .

IN the following pages brief sketches are presented of many of the villages and embryo towns which are comprised within a radius of six miles of Bradford. Doubtless there are other places intimately connected with the district, but lying outside this prescribed circle, about which much interesting matter might have been written, but they are necessarily beyond the scope of the present effort, and if dealt with as their importance deserves, would render this work one of inordinate dimensions. As it is, the chief difficulty experienced has been that of compressing within moderate compass the large mass of materials which was available.

The Sketches have had the advantage of previous publication in the columns of the *Bradford Observer*. An opportunity of thorough revision has thus been afforded which has enabled the Author to ensure a degree of accuracy to which he could not otherwise have attained. The work is not even now offered as a model of perfection in this respect. In a district the extensive area of which was for the most part unbroken ground, much of the information has necessarily been procured orally, and considerable allowance for inaccuracy must be made on this account. Notwithstanding omissions and acknowledged deficiencies, however, the work is submitted to the public in the confident belief that it will form a substantial contribution to the current stock of local knowledge.

The introductory chapter referring to the Etymology of the district has been kindly furnished by a gentleman well versed in word-lore,

and though possibly exception may be taken to some of his conclusions, his contribution will doubtless be appreciated as a valuable addition to the volume.

The Map has been specially prepared for this work by Messrs. Walker & Thornton, Surveyors, Bradford, who have been aided by information supplied by the Author, and it has been lithographed by Mr. S. O. Bailey, of Bradford. The Geological Chart has been drawn and contributed by Mr. W. B. Woodhead, Surveyor, Bradford.

In the collection of materials for the work, the Author gladly acknowledges his obligation to very many persons for assistance rendered in various ways. Among others to whom his thanks are eminently due, he desires especially to name Mr. Joseph Wright, of Wibsey; the Rev. Frederick Hall, of Thornton; Mr. J. A. Busfield, of Upwood; Mr. T. W. Green, of Bingley; Mr. George Taylor, of Apperley; Mr. Simeon Rayner, of Pudsey; Mr. Phil. Slater, of Yeadon; the Rev. H. Harrison, of Idle; Mr. T. T. Empsall and Mr. Jas. Wigglesworth, of Bradford; Mr. W. Robertshaw, of Allerton; Mr. Wm. Thornton, of Calverley; Mr. Edmund Cox, of Baildon; Mr. W. H. Cuthbert, of Wilsden; Mr. Abm. Holroyd, of Saltaire; and Mr. Wm. Bateson, of Windhill. But whilst thankfully recognising the help he has received from these and many other gentlemen, the Author holds himself alone responsible for any statement contained in the following pages.

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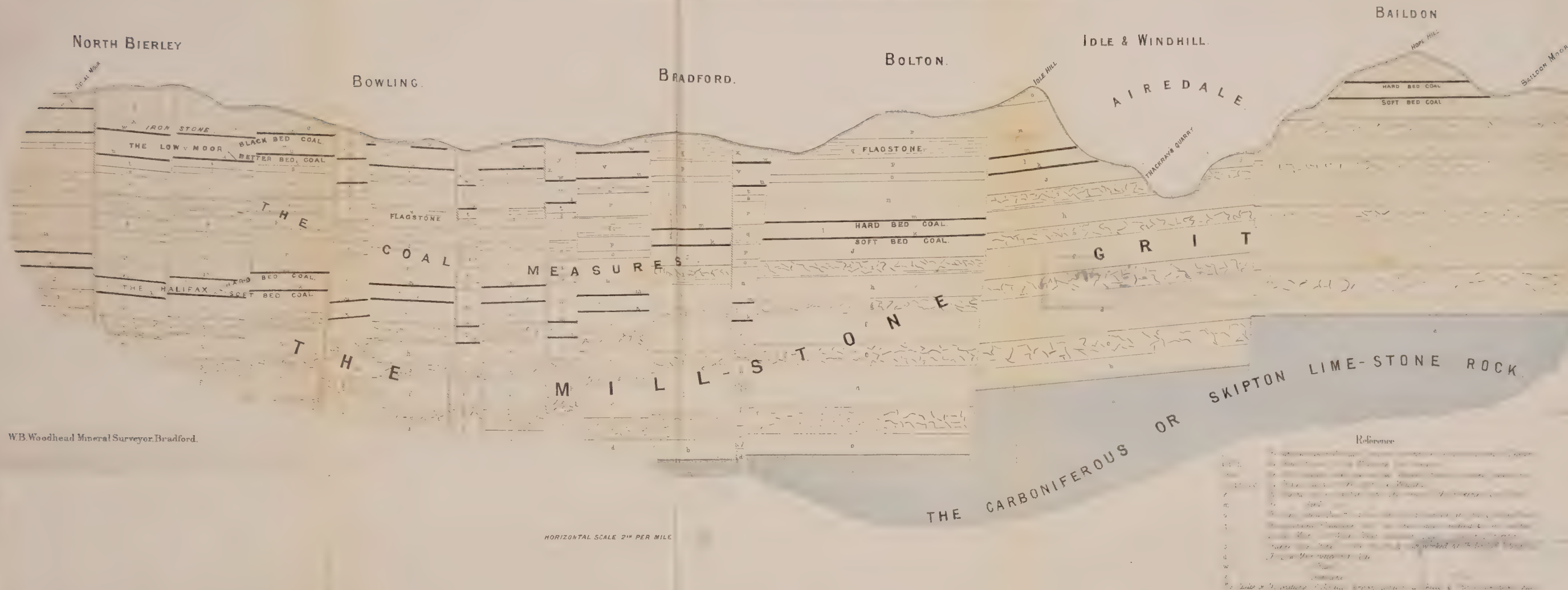
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GEOLOGICAL SECTION SHEWING THE SUCCESSION OF STRATA "ROUND-ABOUT-BRADFORD."



W.B. Woodhead Mineral Surveyor, Bradford.

ROUND ABOUT BRADFORD.

LOCAL NOMENCLATURE.

THERE is a story told of a somewhat weak-witted country gentleman, to whom Dr. Johnson's Dictionary had been recommended as a most useful addition to his scanty library. The squire said he had bought the book, and had read through twenty pages, but he must confess he had found it "rather dull work." No wonder this was his experience, for the great Doctor himself, in his own Dictionary, under the word "dull" says it means "not exhilarating, not delightful ; as, *to make Dictionaries is dull work.*" The description will certainly apply to attempts at explaining the names of places. There has been so much guess-work about it, that Voltaire's saying involuntarily suggests itself:—"Etymology is a science wherein consonants stand for very little, and vowels for nothing at all." Nevertheless, we all like to know what is the meaning and derivation of the names of places where we live. They are indications of some of the circumstances and conditions under which our lives are carried on ; or they tell us something of the history of past generations, and link our age to theirs by unintentional and therefore reliable associations. Although many names of places have been given by their founders, yet a large number of them have not been manufactured, but have *grown*. "Leeds," for instance, was a name naturally given by his clan to the settlement of the Celtic "Leodi," or, as it is now written, "Loyd ;" and the patronymic itself had a meaning ; it was the "gray" man, the stout chieftain whose hair had become gray with honourable work and care. Every one knows that "Saltaire" sets forth the successful industry of the manufacturing baronet, coupled with the river whose waters he has appropriated, and whose name he has annexed. So "Bingley" is the meadow first cultivated by a Saxon named "Byng," whilst "Headingley" is the field of the son of the Saxon "Haedda." On the other hand, "Morecambe" is a word describing the nature of the coast on which the bay is situated. It is the "great crooked" bay, the water with winding inlets : "mor" being Celtic for great, and "cam" for crooked, the same word that we use when we talk of setting our arms "*a-kimbo.*"



These words may be taken as specimens of classes: now let account be given of individual places, preceded by a very brief notice of the etymology of the general territorial divisions in which they are comprised.

And, first, of "YORKSHIRE," the shire (Anglo-Saxon "scyran," to cut—as we cut "shares" with "shears") of which York is the capital city. "York," in Domesday Book, compiled just about 800 years ago, is called "Eurewic:" its British or Celtic name before that had been "Evrauc" or "Eurauc." The Saxons made this "Eborach," which took, in mediæval Latin, the form of "Eboracum." This name, translated, means the "ach" or mound (in Latin, the "agger," or what has been carried to and heaped up—an *artificial* elevation) on the river Eure or Ure, a name ultimately, though as to time most remotely, derived from the root which gave to the ancient Greeks their word for "water." If it be objected that York stands on the Ouse, not on the Ure, the answer is that the word "Ouse" is merely a description of the sluggish character of the stream in that locality: the water "oozes" or flows slowly down its channel, like "juice" pressed through the meshes of a net. The appellation of the fortified earth-works on which the Castle now stands was joined to that of the river, and together they formed the word which, in the course of so many ages, has been worn down to "YORK."

The Shire was divided for the administration of justice into three parts, called "Ridings," originally "Trithings," or "three things." It seems ridiculous to ask any one what a "thing" is: it is of course that of which we can "think," can form a mental conception, and so can *judge*. Our public meetings are intended to be "moot" things, where questions can be mooted: "moot" meaning opposite—the thinkers could discourse face to face. The "Moot Hall" at Leeds is not yet forgotten. Trithings, Ridings, then were divisions for the administration of justice. There is another old division—Wapentakes—the origin of which name is this. The great chieftains on certain occasions performed by "touching" with their own spears the "weapon," called out their vassals to render homage, which ceremony was the upraised spear, of their feudal lord. In Scotland these ceremonial assemblies were called "wapenshaws"—*showing* of weapons—as all readers of Sir Walter Scott's "Old Mortality" will remember. A considerable number of places in our present parliamentary divisions are in the wapentake of "Skyrac," *i.e.*, the shire oak. The district of CRAVEN is the "rocky" region, "Craig" being Celtic for rock, and "ven" (perhaps) winding; Anglo-Saxon "wenda" to turn, the root of our words "to wend," and "went."

This brief explanation may suffice as to the great divisions of the district. It suggests some curious reflections on the social and political condition of our forefathers, which each reader can pursue as he may list.

Returning from this wide survey, attention shall be directed to our own immediate neighbourhood. It is scarcely necessary to say that "*Bradford*" is the broad ford which formerly existed under the summer-morning shadow of the tower of the old Parish Church. The epithet has lost its significance, although those who remember some of the floods by which the town has been visited, will know that this was the converging point of the waters. The three streets, or rather roads, of which the original town consisted, are Ivegate, Westgate, and Kirkgate: "gate" meaning a passage through or along. It is the same word as the "ghauts" of Indian cities, the steps leading down to a river; as the "ghauts" or passes through the mountain regions of Western India; and, "*magnis componere parva*," as the "goit" at Goitstock and elsewhere, which was the sluice to carry off the water: the original root being the Sanscrit "ga," to go. The modern use of the word "gate" is that which prevents people from going. A common Yorkshire expression is "going a-gaiters," *i.e.*, gatewards—on the way. "Westgate" and "Kirkgate" explain themselves. As "Harrogate" means the road to Harewood, so "Ivegate" is the road to St. Ives, the name of which place is an indication of an early Celtic settlement, St. Ives having been a popular Breton saint:—

"Sanctus Ivo erat Brito,
Advocatus, sed non latro,
Res miranda populo."

—"Hall Ings"—the field was called "Hallyng" more than 500 years ago—represents the "meadows" below an old "hall" that stood not far from where Bridge Street (the bridge over Bowling Beck) joins with Wakefield Road, or what used to be called "*Goodmansend*," the limit or boundary of the property of some aboriginal Mr. Goodman.

We come thus to the district "Round about Bradford." It will perhaps be most convenient for the reader if the names are taken in alphabetical order.

Allerton: the "ton," *i.e.*, the enclosure or homestead (Anglo-Saxon "tynan," to hedge in) near the alder trees. There are several Allertons in the West Riding: and as this tree flourishes only in a moist boggy soil, the name is an indication of a district which, at the time of the original settlement, was only partially drained.

Apperley. This is only a locality: it gives its name to a bridge, but there is no village or hamlet distinctively so called. It is in fact what

some of the Germans a while back would have liked to have made France—a mere geographical expression. And this is explained by its etymology. It is a Latin word, not classical and Ciceronian, but mediæval and monkish :—"ad-per-leiam." The last portion of the word implies ground lying "*low*:" it is equivalent to "*lea*"—

"The lowing herd wind slowly o'er the lea :"

"ad" is "at;" "per" means through or over; and "Apperley" accordingly means "at and along the low meadows," that is to say, those between the bridge and the nunnery at Esholt, which was the central point of this neighbourhood 800 years ago. As an illustration of the first syllable, it may be added that the original Latin designation of Fountains Abbey was "Ad Fontes:" and "Adwalton," or Atherton as it got to be called, is the village "advallum," on the old Roman wall.

Baildon is the dwelling—Celtic "*baile*," an abode—on the "*dun*" or hill. The first syllable, as "*Bally*," appears in a large number of Irish names of places; and from its Latinised form of "*ballium*" we get the "*Old Bailey*."

Batley is the meadow of a Saxon called Batta.

Bierley: the low land adjoining a "*byre*" (Norse "*bu*," a cow)—a house for cattle.

Bingley: the field of the Saxon settler Byng.

Boldshay (spelt "*Bolleshagh*" 500 years), ago *Bolton*, and *Bowling*, all take their names from the "*bull*" kept by the respective townships, as the district of "*Bolland*" in Craven is the land of the bull. The animal, in Chaucer and the early English ballads, is spelt "*bolle*" and pronounced "*bowl*." In Chaucer's "*Knight's Tale*," we read of

"Licurge himself the grete King of Thrace"

how that

"Full high upon a char (chariot) of gold stood he,
With fouré whité *bolles* in the trais (traces)."

"John Bull" is certainly not unrepresented "Round about Bradford." Of the respective terminations of these words it may be said that "*shaw*" or "*shay*" is a wood, the "*shade*" of the trees: (our word "*sky*," like the Greek word "*skia*," originally meant the shadow of the clouds, as again Chaucer testifies, when he tells us that Triton

"——let a certaine windé go
That blew so hidously and hie,
That it lefte not a *skie*
In all the welkin long and brode")

"ton" in Bolton is enclosure, "ing" in Bowling is the field of the bull.

Buttershaw is literally "in my cottage near a wood." "Shaw," as above: "Butter" is a corruption of the Anglo-Saxon "Botyl" a dwelling, from the verb "bytlian," to build. The word appears in several German names, *e.g.*, Wolfen-büttel. The Gaelic "bothie" and our "booth" are cognate words. A "bottle" is that which holds something: Shakespeare's clown in "Midsummer Night's Dream" had "a great desire to a bottle of hay." It is hoped the reader will not call this explanation "a bottle of smoke."

Calverley is the "ley" of the "calf-herd," the hind who had special care of the young cattle. The name of this servitor survives in the patronymic "Calvert." Calverley was the scene of the dreadful murder of two of his children by Walter Calverley, of which we have two accounts, one in turgid prose, and the other partly in blank verse. This latter, under the title of "A Yorkshire Tragedie: not so new as lamentable and true. Written by W. Shakespeare," bears the date of A.D. 1608. Frederick Schlegel says it "is not only Shakespeare's, unquestionably, but, in my opinion, it deserves to be classed among his best and maturest works." This is preposterous: the tragedy is no more like Shakespeare's writing than Mr. Spurgeon is like Chrysostom. It is a "raw-head and bloody bones" affair, and is of little beyond local interest. We respect Calverley much, but love Shakespeare more.

Dudley-hill. There is no "ley" or low land here, and the explanation of the word must be sought elsewhere. It is to be found in the Norse "doed-lande," *i.e.*, barren or dead land. A "doddy," or a "doddipoll," is a very old English synonym for a blockhead, one whose brains are inert as though dead, as readers of Heywood's Epigrams, written three hundred years ago, will remember. "Dead-land" is not a bad description of much of the soil in this locality as it was some fifty or sixty years ago. As to how it has been improved, the record will be found under the word "Laisterdyke."

Eccleshill means "church hill." As the church—*i.e.*, the building—was erected within our own time, it cannot have given its name to the hill. The meaning is rather that the hill was ecclesiastical property. We know from extant records that some portions of it belonged to the next place on our list.

Esholt is "ash wood." Anglo-Saxon "aesc," "ash: "holt," a coppice. The Yorkshire pronunciation of the name of the tree is the old one: the "four ashes," which gave their name to "Ashfield" in Bradford, were always spoken of as "t' four eshes." "Eschewolde" is the original spelling of the word. Here, there was a little Cistercian nunnery, founded about 700 years ago, and dedicated to the Virgin and

St. Leonard. At the time of the dissolution of the monasteries it contained only six nuns. The inmates seem from their names to have belonged to families in the neighbourhood ; probably it was a place of shelter for the unprotected females of houses whose male members were employed in the wars. The priory was dissolved 29th August, 1540. There are only a few fragments of the walls of some of the out-buildings remaining. Its revenues at the time of the dissolution were set down at £35 18s. 11d. This seems a small sum even for vows of poverty. But, besides the fact that it would be equivalent to rather more than £100 of our currency, it must be noticed that the priory possessed in its own occupation several "firmæ," or farms, that would supply its inmates with food; that provisions in those days were cheap, sheep selling at sixpence a-piece, pigs at a shilling, and cows at four shillings and sixpence; and that no doubt the families from which the nuns came supplied many little luxuries. In fact, it has been estimated that, one way and another, the revenues of the priory would be equivalent to £1000 of our money per annum.

Frizinghall. The woollen manufacture, as well as the worsted, was formerly carried on "round about Bradford." One of the oldest articles in the woollen trade is "frieze." "Ffris" is the Celtic word for the "nap" of cloth; the "knop," little head or tuft of curling wool. A "friseur" is one who dresses the human hair. Frieze coats are rough garments of wool slightly milled, and still more slightly pressed or "finished." When Charles Brandon, a private gentleman, married our Henry Eighth's sister, Queen Dowager of France, the trappings of his horse were half cloth of gold and half frieze, with the following motto :—

"Cloth of gold, do not despise,
Though thou art matched with cloth of frize:
Cloth of frize, be not too bold,
Though thou art match'd with cloth of gold."

In the wardrobe account of Prince Henry, eldest son of James I., dated 28th September, 1607, is included "a jerkin of black *Frizade* lined with shag: also a hunting-coat of green Chamblett" (*i.e.* camlet).—"Frizinghall" was the hall in the ing where frieze was manufactured. This place is one of the oldest suburbs of Bradford.

Fulneck is a settlement of the United Christian Brethren, commonly known as Moravians, and bears the name of the town in Moravia where the community was originally organised. The word is Gothic, and, where first used, signified literally a "foul" or awkward "neck" or bend in the stream at the place of their location. From the dangerous eddies and whirlpools attendant on such a stream were

derived the Scandinavian legends about "Nikr," the water-demon, the original of our "Old Nick!"

Girlington is one of the latest of Bradford extensions, and that in a district formerly almost uncultivated: but the name is old. "Gir" is Gaelic for "rough" land, on which "ling" or heather grows; "ton" implies that it has been enclosed and civilised. All honour to those who have thus conquered nature! They may take the Latin motto, and say "Floreat Calluna!" May the heather-town prosper! "*Ling-bob*" is the "end" of the "ling:" Celtic "bod," extremity, the word which gives us the "butts" at which the old English archers shot.

Harden. This would seem to be the narrow valley where the hare finds shelter. But if we durst venture to eliminate the "h," we should get a singularly accurate description of the place. "Ard" is Celtic for "high" (as in the Latin "arduous"): "den" is a deep valley. "Arthington" in Wharfedale is "Ardyngton" in Domesday Book, and may be translated the "ton" in the meadow on the high ground. The forest of "Ardenne" forms an over-hanging boundary of France and Belgium. Shakespeare calls it "Arden," where

"——— this our life, exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything."

Those who are familiar with the scenery in the neighbourhood of our Harden will appreciate the quotation, even if they should doubt the etymology. And as to the aspirate "h," some of us can misuse it as well as any Cockney. Not many weeks ago, a can containing oil was sent into this very locality, with the following instructions written on the label—"Stur this Hoil Hup before Huing (using) it." There is an emphasis in the aspirate which is characteristic of West Yorkshire energy.

Haworth. We are still keeping to the moorland when we reach this place. It is a rightful homage to genius that its name is more familiar to those Englishmen and Americans who have a taste for letters, than any or all the rest of the places "round about Bradford." Those fragile but fiery Brontë girls derived much of their inspiration from the breezy uplands and heathery nooks by which they were surrounded, and Haworth became more widely known from its poets than Hawthornden did from Drummond. The first syllable in the name of the place is Norse "ha," high. The local pronunciation, *quasi* "Howarth," is as in Fox How, or the hill of Howth. The second syllable, "worth," implies a growth, a becoming, from the same root as the German verb "werden," and as the old English word for vegetables "wort:" "colewort," for example, is the stem that grows: "good

worts, good cabbage," says Falstaff. "Haworth" is the collection of dwellings that have gradually accumulated on the "hill" side.

Heaton is the enclosure on the open moorland, Anglo-Saxon "haeth," Gothic "haithi," waste; where the "heath" grows. The word "heathen" meant originally people living in the unenclosed country, just as the Latin word "pagani," which means villagers, gives us "pagans."

Horton is the "ton" of horses. One likes to remember, in connection with this name, that at Horton in Buckinghamshire, the poet Milton wrote "Comus," and several other of his minor poems. It is noteworthy that at our Horton Abraham Sharpe, the mathematician, and friend of Halley the astronomer, lived and pursued his solitary and self-absorbing studies.

Idle indicates the barrenness of the soil. The Anglo-Saxon "idel" or "ydel," like the German "eitel," means empty, vacant, barren. Shakespeare uses the word in this sense. Othello says :

"Wherein of antres vast and deserts *idle*,
Rough quarries, rocks, and hills whose heads touch heaven,
It was my hint to speak."

Cordelia tells how Lear had been met in his madness

"Crowned with rank fumiter and furrow weeds,
With harlocks, hemlock, nettles, cuckoo flowers,
Darnel, and all the *idle* weeds that grow
In our sustaining corn,"

And again :—

"——— the murmuring surge
That on the, unnumbered *idle* pebbles chafes."

There was formerly an "Academy" here for the education of dissenting clergymen. It was a common though small joke to speak of the alumni of this college as "the *idle* students." Be it said in honour of the inhabitants of this rocky region that they have known, like Falstaff, how to "turn diseases into commodity;" and the stone, which was most literally the reproach of the soil, has become the wealth of its owners. The place called "Illingworth" is a similar record of achievement. The "ing" was an "ill" or barren one; but industry has transformed it and made it "worth," productive. As in so many other cases, the desert has been made to rejoice.

Ilkley comes down to us from Roman times, or earlier. It is called by Ptolemy (in Greek letters), Olecanon, which word was written by the Romans "Olicana." The "o" is the Greek article: "lecanon" is

the Greek and "licana" is the Latinised form of the Celtic or British word "llecan," meaning "rock." Ilkley is, etymologically, the meadow amongst the rocks, and a more correct description of the place could not be given.

Keighley is the field of the Saxon Kihel. In Domesday Book the place is written "Chichelai," probably the result of an attempt on the part of some Norman scribe to convey in writing the strong Saxon guttural. The fashion was attempted some few years ago to have the name pronounced "Keeley," like that of a comic actor celebrated in his day. But the attempt was deservedly unsuccessful: there is no doubt that our comparatively feeble enunciation—*quasi* "Keithley"—comes nearer to the deep-resounding throat-note of the sturdy Saxon founder, than as if the name had some connection with the "keel" of a ship. The patronymic Kell, honoured in Bradford and Huddersfield, does not come from "Kihel," but from "keld," the Saxon name for a spring of fresh and "cold" water.

Laisterdyke is a word that needs dissection. "Lai" is "laithe," a barn, in which the farmer "lays" up his produce: "ster" is "steder," the plural of Anglo-Saxon "stede," a "standing" place, one of hundreds of words derived ultimately from the Sanscrit "stha," to stand: "dyke" means "dug" out, and is either the hole made, or the mound thrown up in making it. The whole word indicates farm buildings with facilities for drainage.

Legrams is a corruption of "ley" or low-lying, and "ram," Norse for strong; and, as applied to land, indicating a stiff clay soil. It is the same as "Ramsbottom." The family name of "Ingram," when we think of it in connection with Temple Newsam, has a more aristocratic sound than "Ramsbottom," but it means precisely the same thing. Etymology is a radical science in more senses than one. What can be nobler than "all the blood of all the Howards?" Yet "Howard" is simply Hog-ward, the keeper of pigs!

Leventhorpe is the "thorpe," the Norse form of the German "dorf"—the village of the Anglo-Saxon settler Leofwyn, who must have been a very estimable personage, if his character corresponded with his name,—"a winner of love." Perhaps it rather meant a lover of wine!

Lidget Green. A lid is a cover, that which shuts up: a lig gate or lid-gate in the North of England is that which closes of itself. This explanation is very unsatisfactory; but the only other derivation known (to the present writer) would make it "laiche," *i.e.*, low gate. The gate might doubtless open on to the green; but it would seem odd to call the green from a gate leading to it.

Liversedge is the edge or boundary of the estate of the Saxon Leofric, who must have been a very amiable character, if he was indeed—"rich in love."

Low Moor indicates the locality relatively to the higher moorland at Wibsey and elsewhere, by which it is surrounded. The original Norse word "mor" (the root of Morton, Morley, &c.) signified the vegetable substance constituting turf, converted by drying into "peat," or that which "supplied" (a. s. betan) fuel. The genitive case of "mor" was "moos," whence our word "moss," and, perhaps, "moose-deer." Of the world-renowned Low Moor iron and iron-works it would be superfluous here to write.

Manningham. The affix "ing" has two meanings, one local, a meadow; the other patronymic, a son: both probably conveying the idea of "belonging to," from the Norse "eiga," and old German "eigan," to possess, the root of our word to "own." Our present word means the "ham" or home of the son of Mann. The founder of our suburban settlement had at least a great tribal name. Tacitus tells us that Mannus—derivatively and emphatically the "man," *i.e.*, the thinker, he who "means"—(whence Hermann, "guerre"-man, war man, German)—was the son of Tuisco, the demi-god of war (from whom we get the day of the week, "Tuesday"), and was the founder of the German nationality. It is something to be connected, if only by a name, with such an ancestry.

Otley is "Ottelai" in Domesday Book; either the field of oats, or of the Norseman Otto; and his name is *said* to indicate a warrior who "strikes with fear," that is, presumably, strikes *other people* with fear—"impavidus ferit." A derivation more correct, however, makes Otto equivalent to "rich," in which case Otley denotes the exuberant meadows, and these certainly abound in the valley of the Wharfe. The "*Chevin*," Celtic "cefn," as the hill looking down on Otley is called, is, like the Cheviots and Les Cevennes, the "ridge" or back, the hill which "*stretches*" upwards and along.

Pudsey, in Domesday Book "Podechesaie," is the "ey," or island in the marsh, of frogs. When the first settlement was made there, the land was undrained and boggy; and the first progress of civilisation was to get rid of these marshes and their inhabitants, from whom the growing hamlet received its name. "Pudda," "Padda," or "Paddock," is the Norse name for a frog. The witches in Macbeth chaunt "Paddock calls;" and Hamlet says:—

"For who that's but a queen, fair, sober, wise,
Would from a *paddock*, from a bat, a gib,
Such dear concernings hide."

Once more we have a name which is a record of victory over obstacles presented by nature and locality.

Rawdon, in Domesday Book "Rodun," is the hill of the "roe" or deer, Norse "ra." In Wicliffe's Bible Mount Olivet is called "Oliuete's dune"—our "down," a hill. As to the local pronunciation of the first syllable, Chaucer gives us an intimation. In "The Reve's Tale," told in the dialect of "Strother" or Langstrothdale, the upper part of Wharfedale, we read :—

" Alas ! quod John, Alein, for Criste's pein,
Lay down thy swerd, and I shall mine als wa,
I is full wight (active) God wate (knows) as is a *ra*,"

i.e., a roebuck. Another name of a place in the vicinity testifies to the same etymology. "Buckstone" is a shelving rock, whence the deer are supposed to have kept their look-out, or under the overhanging ledge of which they took refuge. Under this ledge, also, the tradition is that the Baptists held their religious meetings in the persecuting times of that "sair saint for the Crown," Charles II.

Ripley-ville, to Bradford readers of to-day, will need no explanation. Others may be informed that it means the "houses"—"weiler," an abode—"villa," in Latin, is a *country* residence—belonging to Mr. H. W. Ripley, M.P. If, with all possible respect, the liberty might be taken of analysing this honourable gentleman's patronymic, it might be said that Ripon and the village of Ripley not far from it, indicate a position "*ad ripam*," on the bank of the river Skell.

Scarr-hill indicates the cliff "shorn" (Anglo-Saxon "scyran," to divide) or "abrupt" in the literal meaning of that word. The craggy character of the locality supports the derivation, although modern improvements have effaced most of the "scars."

Shear-bridge is the place where the stream "shears" or divides.

Shipley and *Skipton* may be taken together, for they have the same origin, with a noteworthy difference. The one is the field, the other the enclosure of sheep, Anglo-Saxon "sceap." The first two letters of this word were hardened by the Northerns into "sk," and softened by those of the latitude, say, of Bingley or thereabouts, into "sh." So we have a shipper and a skipper, words meaning the same thing originally, though now employed with a difference. "Shatter" and "scatter," "shirt" and "skirt," are similar instances. And thus, also, from "scyran," to divide, we get both "Skyrac" and "Shoreditch." The Norman invasion was the date of this diversity. Skipton is a place of historical interest. The legends of the Romilly family, from whom came the name of Romald's or Rumbles Moor—the story so beautifully told by Wordsworth of the gentle lady of Rylstone with the milk-white

doe,—the Cliffords, from the “butcher Clifford,” who slew the Duke of York’s young son on Wakefield Bridge,—the “Shepherd Lord,” who had learnt astronomy and love “in huts where poor men lie,”—the sailor Clifford, who shared in the adventures of the *Western Main*,—and not least, the brave, pious, and learned Anne, Countess Dorset, Pembroke, and Montgomery, who “had been bullied by an usurper and neglected by a court, but would not be dictated to by a subject”—who knew everything, as the poet Daniel said, “from predestination to floss-silk :”—and, finally, George Fox’s walking naked through the streets of Skipton by way of delivering his testimony, are all suggestive of romantic interest, but can only be hinted at in this local catalogue.

Stanningley is doubly, in “ing” and “ley,” the low land of stones. The village is on the hill side : the stone is around and in the adjoining “bottoms.”

Tong is in Domesday Book “Tuinc :” in all probability the word is a corruption of “ton,” an enclosure. Mediæval lexicographers say —“Tungi præpositus, id est, villæ :” and “tunginus” is “villæ præfectus.”

Thornton is the enclosure among the thorns ; not the brambles, we may believe, but the hawthorns. The generally treeless character of the locality would give prominence to some “milk-white thorn that scents the evening gale,” and furnish the first settlers with a name for their homestead. The old Independent Chapel here was called the “*Kipping* Chapel,” and the word is a curious one. One of the oldest English institutions is the “stocks,” where criminals were punished with confinement. In the middle ages, this invention to hold and “keep” fast the culprit was called “kippos” in Greek, and “cippus” in Latin ; and we are told by one writer it was so called “quaisi capiens pedes,” *i.e.*, holding the legs :

“Est cippus truncus, terræ cumulus, monumentum,
Petra tegens cimiterium, cippus quoque lignum,
Quo captivorum vestigia stricta tenentur :”

which may thus be rendered—

“This wooden keep, on earthen mound,
A monumental rock is found,
Where caitiff legs are tightly bound.”

The Thornton “keep,” situated on the “ing” or meadow, fell into merited disuse : in its place arose the “*Kipping*” Nonconformist Chapel, where, in times of darkness and persecution, the word of Puritan truth was taught ; and the triumph of Gospel over Law was complete.

Undercliffe explains itself. The cliffe, indeed, has, in the progress of improvement, been much abraded and levelled ; but the heights on which Airedale College and the Cemetery are located, as well as those looking down upon Bolton House and Peel Park, justify the designation.

Wibsey cannot be clearly ascertained. It may be a corruption of Withsey, the "ey" or island amongst the marshes where the "withs" or willows grew : or it may be, like Wiberton in Lincolnshire, the "ey" of a settler called Wibert or Wigbert, whose Saxon name signifies "bright or illustrious in war."

Wilsden is the narrow, rocky valley in the "wild," unsheltered region. Milton says :—

" ————— we, sometimes,
Who dwell this *wild*, constrained by want, come forth
To town or village nigh."

Yeadon is the water, Anglo-Saxon "ea," from the same root as the Latin "aqua," and the French "aix" in Aix-la-Chapelle, and "don," hill : the mountain tarn which now furnishes the water supply for the locality.

We have thus placed before our readers all the names of places in the district of Bradford that seemed capable of explanation. Had space permitted, some specimens of the local dialect might also have been given. Hereafter, perhaps, some illustrations may be offered of that "common speech," repudiated long since by all persons of gentility, but familiar household words still in the remoter regions "Round about Bradford." Now, however, we proceed with the local history of the various places comprised within a radius of half-a-dozen miles of Bradford. For convenience we divide them into Districts, and each district into Sections, and have grouped under the several headings those places which, either from community of interest or proximity of situation, it seemed most desirable to include.

FIRST DISTRICT.

WIBSEY—BUTTERSIAW—HIGH BENTLEY—COLEY—LOW
MOOR—LOW MOOR IRONWORKS—BIERLEY—WYKE
—OAKENSHAW—SCHOLES.

IN attempting a description of the extensive district comprised in the above heading, it will be convenient to pursue a somewhat "round about" course and take the district sectionally, without, however, observing distinct boundary lines. A great portion of it, known as North Bierley, including Wibsey, Beck Hill, Buttershaw, Low Moor, Woodhouse Hill, Woodlands, and Bierley Lane, is in the parish of Bradford; High Bentley and Coley are in the parish of Halifax; and Wyke, Oakenshaw and Scholes are in Birstal parish.

One of the above sections is the village of Wibsey. It might seem to the ordinary reader that there is not much to be written about Wibsey, and with not a few the name will suggest little more than the three topics :—Wibsey Geese, Wibsey Fair, and Wibsey Slack! Well, these are still institutions of the place, and, as simple historians, we record the fact. To the scribbling rambler in want of a text these might even suffice him to poke his fun at. If he had a comic turn for genealogy, for instance, he might trace the pedigree of that venerable (but traditional) gander, said to have reached its ninetieth year, and to be still treading its native heath with the assistance of a crutch. But we are made of "sterner stuff." If the annals of a village are "short and simple," our story must be correspondingly brief. In common courtesy, however, we must conduct the reader to this little "city on the hill" rather than let him find his way unguided. In truth, this would be no difficult matter for him to do. He needs only to be started off at the bottom of Manchester Road, and told to "follow his nose" (a local but safe direction), and in due time he will arrive at "Benk-foot." If he wishes for ocular demonstration of the giant strides that the metropolis of the worsted trade is making, in no other of the many arteries of Bradford could this be more effectually made apparent to him. It surprises a townsman to remember that, within the memory of comparatively young men, from Mrs. Bacon's entrance gate at the bottom of Manchester Road, with the solitary watch-box adjoining, right up to Wibsey Bank-foot, only a few clusters of houses obstructed the view of green fields and blooming hedgerows! But such is the

fact. Arrived at the foot of the hill on which Wibsey is built the visitor will require some further assistance, or his nasal guide may take him on to Halifax, from which and the other two H's we would deliver him. Following the Halifax Road by what is known as the Cutting, the traveller may take advantage of an inscription painted on a publichouse sign at the roadside here (which is in the form of a gate) as follows:—

“ This gate hangs well and hinders none,
Refresh and pay, then travel on.”

Supposing he ascends Wibsey Bank to the village proper, he will scarcely be prepossessed by what he sees. Some old houses lying in a hollow have not an inviting appearance, while many of the dwellings, especially those verging on the Slack, are of that squat description that the wind cannot well get hold of, but they possess one advantage, namely, that the occupiers thereof do not need to go upstairs to bed. In most of these low-roomed houses the principal article of furniture is of that useful description which Goldsmith describes as contriving

“ a double debt to pay,
A bed by night, a chest of drawers by day.”

Generally, whatever ornamentation is bestowed upon the interior is concentrated on this useful article, which, as a rule, is gorgeously draped with anti-macassar work, and sustains the family “seeming glass,” spare crockery, and library. The village presents its best front to the visitor as he ascends the steep hill on which it is built, but in the side streets, if they may be so called, there is an apparent contempt of regularity observable, which speaks plainly of a former absence of building regulations. A short stroll through the main street, graced by at least one ornamental edifice, the Wesleyan Chapel, and we are out on the open moor. Bordering on the Slack (which it may be well to state is the name given to the common, or Wibsey upper moor), there are some homesteads which have had a curious origin. First, a person would enclose, without asking anybody's leave, as much land as would afford a site for a goose-shed—probably some two or three square yards. A yard in which to pen these favourite birds being indispensable, another small space would be enclosed. A donkey being probably a member of the family, and needing winter lodgment, what more natural than to throw up a few bricks and call it a “mule-hoil?” In course of time, however, this “mule-hoil” may have an additional row or two of bricks put upon it, a fireplace introduced, and then the other members of the family take up their abode there, no one formerly meddling themselves about it if the enclosure was effected in the

manner described, and did not extend beyond a few yards at a time. A popular idea exists that if such a holding can be kept for twenty years without paying "lord's rent" it becomes the property of the holder. Not a few of such tenements change hands without deeds, for the good reason that there never were any. Lately, however, the common land, both at Wibsey upper and lower moor, has been well looked after, and a bailiff has been appointed to collect "lord's rent" on behalf of the Low Moor Company, who are lords of the manor, for all such "obstructions." More serious "obstructions" than these, however, are the heaps of refuse from the pit sinkings on the moor, and which the late John James would have had planted with trees! Truly a desirable consummation, should it ever be realised, as there is scarcely a tree within sight. A manifest improvement has within recent years taken place in the style of building, which may be accounted for by the introduction of manufactures. Around the extensive works of Messrs. B. Wright & Son, Carr-top, and the Perseverance Mill Company at Slackside, for instance, a superior class of cottages has been erected. Many of the old miners' cottages, too, have been rebuilt, or have had another storey added, and in the main street some shop premises have been erected, decidedly in advance of the old style. Some of these new buildings have supplanted low ungainly cottages of the primitive construction peculiar to the village. On the high ground at Wibsey Carr stands the Independent Chapel, one of the landmarks of the district, and at a slightly lower elevation the large manufacturing works of Messrs. B. Wright & Son, appropriately named "Prospect Mills." From the chapel yard a splendid view of the neighbourhood is obtainable. Probably a larger portion of Bradford can be seen from this vantage point than from any other place in the neighbourhood.

A few old houses remain in the village of Wibsey, but many ancient homesteads have been removed. With the removal of some of them has also vanished that ancient piece of furniture the "delf-case," which was a necessity in a well-furnished house last century. With them also have vanished the tenants who inhabited them, some as ancient in appearance as the houses they occupied. Among these may be mentioned Will Walker, who, in addition to his ancient garb, had beard, nails, and hair that had not been cut for years. "The Green" was at that time an appropriate name, for there was not a pit hill upon it. Coming to the lower end of the village there is an old house, with the date 1684, and the initials T. B. A., which was formerly occupied by Sammy Pearson. Close by are two other houses with the initial B., but of more recent date. The family who built these was named Booth. Opposite the Black Dog Inn there is another old residence,

which was built for a daughter of the Rookes family, to whom was given, for pin-money, some lands called Acker (or Acre). The inscription on this house is "E. W., 1626." A former inhabitant of this house granted a lease of some land to a man named Littlewood, at a nominal rent, on a curious condition, namely, that he would "shut the gate after him." Near this house was the "bull-post," periodically used for bull-baiting. It is only comparatively recently that the post and chain have been removed. Behind the Windmill Inn there formerly stood a Windmill, attended to by a man named Matthew Burnan, better known as the "old milner" (miller). His wife, an old woman, became a celebrity in the neighbourhood as a fortune-teller, and was known only as Jenny Milner. She was commanding in person, and of good address, but an ignoramus in regard to any knowledge of astrology. Cards, coffee grounds, and tea leaves were her "mediums," and furnished her with information of past incidents and future destinies. Her fame, however, was great. She was consulted by all classes, and—tell it not in Gath!—carriages from Bradford and many other places might often be seen standing at her door! Her "sign" was a long whitewashed chimney, and parties in search of the white chimney might frequently be seen in the village. She was a wicked old woman, but denied that she was as bad as she appeared, her reason being that she only said, "It *appears* so and so," while consulting her coffee grounds and tea leaves. It was scarcely needful for the old woman to draw so fine a distinction.

The old Workhouse for North Bierley township was on the site of the present substantial residence of Mr. C. Edmondson, at Holroyd Hill, Wibsey. John Wesley preached in this old workhouse. Johnny Wilson was once the master as well as overseer, and had a good reputation for kindness to his charge. He, however, ended his days as an inmate. With the increased population more accommodation was required, and the square building now standing at Odsal was erected, the field adjoining being enclosed from the common land as a croft for its use. There is an upright stone in this field with the inscription:—"The gift of Edward Leeds, late Rookes, of Royds Hall, to the poor of North Bierley for ever, 1770. John Wilson, overseer; Isaac North, churchwarden." No doubt the interests of "the poor" were properly looked after in this matter when the old workhouse was vacated by the introduction of the new Poor Law in 1836, but no "old inhabitant" that we have consulted seems to know how the matter stands. Two notorieties in connection with the workhouse at Odsal were poor Tom Bland, with his red plush suit, and Tab at t' Warkhaase,—the sport and terror of the small boys of the neighbourhood.

In the early part of the present century the social status of the district comprising Wibsey and Low Moor was very low. Chiefly composed of colliers, at that time the most ignorant of all workmen, the district had a most unenviable reputation, and its inhabitants were looked upon by some persons as little better than "white heathens." It was about this time probably that the story gained credence that at Wibsey a bit of "howpey" beef was a necessary dish at the Sunday dinner of a Wibsey family. A relic of this former barbarism occurred as late as 1851. The humiliating spectacle of the wedding of "Johnny and Betty" is not yet forgotten, nor the collection of oddities and absurdities which passed through the streets of Bradford in that year on its way to the Parish Church. The couple of yards of painted calico exhibited the reason and philosophy of the whole transaction, thus :—

" At John's and Betty's wedding
We will merry be,
For Johnny's sixty-five
And Betty's seventy-three."

The Wibetesians are an ancient people. Mr. James submits to antiquarians whether the neighbouring hill called Beldon did not receive its name from the ancient Britons having kindled upon its top the Beltan fires of old. In close proximity, however, we have in the names, Wibsey Bank and Wibsey Carr, the undoubted traces of former Saxon and Scandinavian possessors. Wibsey is also mentioned in Domesday Book, and it is there spelt "Wibetese." That valuable record, which settles many difficulties, enumerates it as one of the manors handed over to Ilbert de Lacy. It was then an adjunct to the manor of Bolton, near Bradford, from which it was shortly afterwards severed, and became an independent manor. Mr. James presumes that soon after the Conquest North Bierley and Wibsey Manors were granted by the Lacies to the Swillingtons. This is an old Yorkshire family, of which the Lowthers, of Swillington, near Leeds, are the present representatives. The Swillingtons were also lords of the adjoining manor of Shelf. They became strong adherents of the House of Lancaster in all its vicissitudes. The original manor of Royds was a small demesne attached to the larger manor of North Bierley. East Bierley appears to have been severed from North Bierley as early as 1316, for in that year the Thornhills are returned Lords of Hunsworth and East Bierley. As to the manor of Wibsey it seems to have been in the possession of the family of Longvilliers in the time of Henry III. (1216-72), and to have descended from them to Geoffry Neville, of Hornby Castle, by marriage, and thence to the Langton and Danby families, of Farnley,

the latter of whom possessed it in 1496. About the latter period the manor of North Bierley descended from the Swillingtons (failing a male heir) to Sir Arthur Hopton, and he sold it to Sir Richard Farmer, of London, who disposed of it, along with the manor of Royds Hall, to William Rookes. Rookes, it would appear, also acquired from the Danby family the manor of Wibsey, and thus the two manors became known as the manor of Royds Hall. In modern phrase, these manorial distinctions are sunk in the present township appellation of North Bierley.

The above William Rookes resided at the time of the purchase at Rookes Hall, near Norwood Green, and the place is still known as "The Rookes." From thence he took up his residence at Royds Hall, which was and is still the ancient manor house. Royds Hall continued to be the residence of the Rookes family for nearly 300 years. The last of this ancient family, named Edward Rookes (of whom more anon), assumed the name of Leeds on his marriage with a lady of that name. He was familiarly known as "Squire Leeds," and died by his own hand, a bankrupt, in 1788, when the mansion of Royds Hall, with the extensive manor, were purchased by the Low Moor Company for £34,000. Henceforth the North Bierley district entered upon the first stage of development of its natural resources.

In an award made in the year 1530, when William Rookes took possession of the manor of Wibsey, mention is made of "collemyns" and "collyers." These collieries were in immediate proximity to Reeve Hall. The output from them, however, would be very trifling. Even in Squire Leeds' time the value of the minerals under the entire district was not known, and the Squire, although he unearthed a few coals, was too poor to pay his colliers for getting them. As to the ironstone, the remark is attributed to him that, "if they had *that* in some places it might be of some use." The state of agriculture also was very primitive, and for a long period much of the land was allowed to lie unproductive. Even in recent times the farmers of Wibsey were as "poor as crows," and they were not "killed with rent." The present generation are far better off with a rental of £3 an acre than when the price was 25s. Many, perhaps all of them, added cloth-weaving to eke out an existence. This state of things prevailed until the first quarter of the present century, and then matters were very little better. The worsted trade gave employment to a few in hand-combing, spinning, and weaving, but at wages which bear no comparison with those paid now-a-days. A good spinner could earn 2s. 6d. a week, a wool-comber 12s., and a weaver 10s. a week. Colliers' wages were then, too, miserably small. "Black-bed men" were paid at most half-a-crown a

day, and had frequently three days' play in a week ; 12s. a week was a good average.

The year 1834 was a marked year to Wibsey. In that year the Beaumont Estate, as it was called, or the property in Wibsey belonging to the Beaumont family of Bretton Hall, was sold, and threw many available building plots into fresh hands. This large manorial estate was part of the ancient possessions of William Rookes in 1500, and from an abstract furnished by the Beaumonts to every purchaser at the sale in 1834-5, it is recorded that Edward Rookes Leeds (Squire Leeds) in 1747 sold all the Wibsey estate to Lieut.-General the Hon. Thos. Wentworth. The boundaries of this estate were formerly traversed by members of the Beaumont family, along with many others, doubtless attracted by the money which was squandered at different points of the boundary. As the property was purchased by the Beaumonts forty years before the Low Moor Company became possessors of the Royds Hall Manor, it is not clear to many Wibseyites how the Company became lords of Wibsey manor. However, as just stated, the opening up of this estate was a great boon to Wibsey, and was taken advantage of to a considerable extent.

From this point a manifest improvement took place in the prospects of the village, as, in addition to the expansion of the iron works at Low Moor, the worsted and card-making trades got a footing by the purchase of the old Folly Hall (part of the Beaumont estate), on the site of which Folly Hall Mill was built in 1836 by Messrs. William and Samuel Bateman. Considerable mystery is attached to this old hall, which was never completed, and hence the name. For years it and the acre or two of land adjoining were a sort of "no man's land," the haunt of "ghosts and goblins." Tradition had it that the building was commenced by a "furriner," or a Scotchman—which in the estimation of Wibseyites, might amount to the same thing—and that in desperation he "stuck himself" or was murdered, and his body buried in the Hill-stones just below. The old hall was of considerable pretensions, and was of the period of James I., having a long corridor and large rooms, and it fronted towards the present Halifax Road. An inscription with the letters E. H. 1622, appeared on a stone in the old building, which has now been transferred to the entrance of the present mill. The query who this E. H. was will probably trouble Wibsey antiquarians for some time to come. For years previous to the Beaumont sale the old building had been taken possession of, ruinous as it was, by various odd characters, who braved the hobgoblins, so long as they did not appear with rent-book in hand, and thus lived rent free. Noted among those who claimed rooms and portions of the lands adjoining were

several Illingworths, and not a few people in Wibsey will remember Benny o' Natty's and his scheme to monopolise the soft water of the neighbourhood by sinking a well in a corner of his room. So long neglected had been this property that popular astonishment found vent in the couplet,

"Who would ha' thowt it
When Batemans bowt it."

Messrs. William and Samuel Bateman (sons of Mr. Daniel Bateman, of Low Moor), however, were what is known in Yorkshire as "pushing" men, and soon made a metamorphosis in Folly Hall. Since the year 1777 there had been a card-making business carried on at Park House, Low Moor, of which the above Daniel Bateman was the proprietor. With the expansion of the worsted business and manufactures generally, his sons, William and Samuel, doubtless saw the coming opportunity, and hence they extended the card business to Folly Hall. In addition to the card mill erected by them a portion of the premises was let off for weaving and spinning. The premises were enlarged in 1860. The card-making business has since been largely developed by Mr. Daniel Bateman, son of Mr. William Bateman, and it is now conducted in the name of Messrs. D. Bateman & Sons. At Folly Hall Mill the process of card-making, combining the most recent improvements for which the firm have taken out letters patent, may be seen in its perfection. The firm took honours at the great Exhibition of 1851, and they also took the medal at the Vienna Exhibition. Meanwhile the wire-drawing department at the Park House rolling mills was carried on and much extended by Mr. James Bateman, another member of the family, and this is now an important branch of industry.

The largest employers of labour, however, in the village of Wibsey are Messrs. B. Wright & Son, of Prospect Mills, whose extensive spinning and manufacturing works give employment to about 1000 hands. This firm came to Wibsey in 1865, and the premises have during this short period reached their present proportions. The Perseverance Mill at Slackside, built in 1873 by a limited company, has also been brought into operation for worsted manufacture. In addition to these there are the worsted mills of Mr. J. O. Greenwood, Bank Bottom; Messrs. Sutcliffe, Coll Mill; and Messrs. M. Mortimer & Co., Folly Hall. These manufactories give employment near at hand to the growing population—a boon of no mean value, seeing that the young people had previously to travel some distance to find similar occupation. In addition to these, the number of young men, and some who have been younger, who troop down to the Bradford warehouses and workshops

is not exceeded, if equalled, by any other outlying place in the district. The business of spectacle and mathematical instrument case making has been carried on in the neighbourhood for more than half-a-century by Messrs. Pyrah & Sons, and is still continued by Mr. Jesse Pyrah. When cards for manufacturing purposes came into use, Mr. Anthony Pyrah, of Croft Green, son of Mr. Jesse Pyrah, invented several machines for making cards, boards and papers, cards for weaving, and paper-covered spindles for the same purpose, and still continues the business.

Previous to 1821 there was a dearth of either religious or educational facilities within reach of the inhabitants of Wibsey. On the edge of Wibsey Slack there is an old school-house, and an inscription on a slab, showing that it had been endowed for educational purposes, as follows :—"This school was erected and endowed at the charge of John Smyth, Esq., A.D. 1705." The father and grandfather of this John Smyth lived at Miryshay, near Barkerend, Bradford. There are persons living who remember a school being taught at Slack, free of charge, but at the time of which we speak the school had become disused, and the Low Moor Company had erected another school near Low Moor Church, applying the endowment, we suppose, to the teaching at the new school.

We must not forget another old building held in some veneration by Wibsey people, but as to its origin we have not arrived at any satisfactory conclusion. This is the building known as Chapel Fold, at the top of Brownroyd Hill. It has all the appearance of having been a chapel or meeting-house of some antiquity. It is one-storeyed, but unusually lofty ; has a large mullioned window, and, with the house to which it is attached, is most substantially built. Within it an oak gallery and pulpit existed until recently. By some persons it is said to have been the private chapel of a Catholic family ; while others aver that it was the meeting-house of the Presbyterians before the erection of their chapel in Chapel Lane, Bradford, and that both Sharp, of Horton Hall, and Oliver Heywood preached in it. In Fawcett's Life of Heywood, it is said that the "old dissenting chapel at Bradford was erected in 1717. Before that time the people of that persuasion worshipped at Little Horton, and at a place not far from Wibsey." Unfortunately, there is no date upon the Chapel Fold building, but in front of a house at Wibsey low-town end there is the inscription, "W.P., 1635," and from several minute peculiarities, we infer that this house has been erected by the same builder. Supposing this to be about the age of Chapel Fold, it is a much earlier period than is ascribed to the place "not far from Wibsey." Other reasons may be

advanced tending to dispel the idea that the old building at Chapel Fold was the predecessor of the Presbyterian Chapel, Bradford, the chief of these being that wherever that meeting-house was situate, it was promoted, if not built, by a member of the Sharp family, of Horton Hall, and that the land belonged to him. It is scarcely likely that the land about Brownroyd Hill could ever have been possessed by the Sharps, as it was in very early times part of the manor of Royds Hall, and was afterwards transferred to its present owners, the Low Moor Company.

After much inquiry we incline to the belief that the Presbyterian meeting-house described in the Life of Heywood, and undoubtedly the birthplace of Nonconformity in Bradford, was situated near Mr. Matthew Wright's house in Thornton Lane, Little Horton. An initial upon that building refers to the Thornton family, Jeremiah Thornton, a noted Horton man, leaving it to a subsequent Jeremiah, who disposed of it to the Barracloughs, who now own it. The present house was rebuilt in 1739, when the Thorntons probably acquired the property, and it is still known as Chapel House. From an inspection of several deeds conveying the property, however, we found it there more minutely described as "Horton Old Chapel," and the adjoining fields as "Chapel Croft" and "Chapel Ing." The district close by is also called "Chapel Green," and has been known by that name for a longer period than is remembered by old residents of Little Horton. From this meeting-house and its successor in Chapel Lane sprung the Congregational and Presbyterian (commonly known as Unitarian) bodies of Bradford. About the year 1770 many of the congregation worshipping at the Presbyterian Chapel, in Chapel Lane, adopted Unitarian views. The remaining portion seceded, and being joined by a few who had been seriously impressed by the preaching of Whitfield, and also by a few residents of Bradford who had attended the preaching of Stillingfleet at Bierley Chapel, they united and rented a room in the Old Brewery, Bradford. Of this number were Mr. John Smith, a bookseller, Mr. Balme, Mr. James Garnett, of Barkerend, and Mr. Hodgson, of Scholemoor. In this room was formed the first Independent church in the neighbourhood. This little church grew, and ultimately in 1781 Horton Lane Chapel was built.

Although the origin of Chapel Fold, Brownroyd Hill, remains obscure, the little meeting-house has, nevertheless, interesting associations connected with it. It was the gathering place of the Moravians previous to their chapel being built in Little Horton; and was used afterwards by the Church people before St. Paul's, at Buttershaw, was erected. Under the care of the Hardy family, a school was also

collected in it, which was transferred to that at Buttershaw. No other denomination requiring it, the low gallery, which ran round three sides of the room, was taken down, the inner roof lowered, and the old chapel has settled down to the fate of many a similar building in now being let off as cottages.

We have not arrived at the precise date when the Moravian Brethren first began to preach at Wibsey, but they were in possession of Chapel Fold as a preaching place in 1760, and kept possession of it till 1837, when they had to make way for the Church people, who required the use of it during the erection of Buttershaw Church. As the erection of the chapel in Little Horton was then in contemplation, the Brethren did not take any steps to continue the work in Wibsey. Several of the members at Wibsey kept up their church fellowship afterwards by attending at the new Moravian Chapel in Horton Lane, but in course of time the link between the two places was finally broken by the deaths or increasing age of the old members, and also by reason of the distance. The name of the Moravian Church has not, however, died out at Wibsey. Some old inhabitants still survive who remember with satisfaction the fruitful and consistent labours of the early Brethren there, most of whom were sent from Fulneck. Many still recollect the good work carried on by the late Joseph Hinchliffe, proprietor of Horton House Academy, who in the year 1826 began a Sunday School at Chapel Fold, which he personally carried on till 1834 in the face of the most pressing duties connected with one of the first academies in Yorkshire. This Sunday School comprised about 100 boys and girls, whose religious instruction at that time would otherwise have been sadly neglected. As no one could be found to take the work in hand after Mr. Hinchliffe, from declining health, was compelled to give it up, he, rather than that the young people should be turned adrift, determined to receive them every Sunday into his own house. Hence for two or three years afterwards a number of boys (chiefly collier lads) and girls might have been seen wending their way, hand in hand, from the top of Brownroyd Hill to Horton House. Previous to the giving up of the school at Wibsey, Mr. Hinchliffe used to delight in having a quantity of buns smuggled to the place, and then all at once taking the young folks by surprise and giving them a tea. On Christmas Days it was his custom to treat them to a good dinner at Horton House. Often at the approach of winter he would go round with old James Robertshaw to the homes of such of the young people as were in need of new clothes, and instruct the parents to get them supplied with the same at his expense. Mr. Hinchliffe died at Fulneck on April 24, 1853, aged 72 years.

The first mention of the Moravian Brethren having preached at Horton is under date August 6th, 1742. This was at Great Horton, in a house taken for the purpose in Paternoster Lane. It was formerly in one building, but is now occupied as two dwellings. This house in Paternoster Lane continued to be occupied by the Moravians until the erection of their chapel in Horton Lane on December 28, 1838. The first minister of the place was the late Rev. John Carey. Perhaps the most prominent person in bringing about its erection was Mr. Joseph Hinchliffe, who used to bring his pupils from Horton House every Sunday. From among those pupils may be singled out the names of Mr. Edward Akroyd, late M.P. for Halifax; Mr. G. S. Beecroft, late M.P. for Leeds; Mr. H. W. Ripley, M.P. for Bradford; Mr. Darlington, solicitor, and many other gentlemen of repute scattered about Yorkshire.

The Dissenting element at Wibsey long ago preponderated, but the sparseness of the population and the poverty of the district up to the beginning of the present century prevented any building being erected in which they could assemble. About 1815, however, a few individuals joined together to do something to raise themselves and their neighbours, and were known as "Inghamites." They met in a room in Acre Lane. This society seems to have given prominence to *faith* without corresponding *works*, but it does not appear to have made progress or to have done much good. Then there were a few followers of Johanna Southcote. The Christianity of another denomination called "Dolly Thumpers," seems to have been of a very cozy sort, and to have consisted in discussing knotty points of doctrine in a little room at Odsal, in a mental fog more opaque than the smoke clouds emitted from the numerous tobacco pipes of the fraternity. They did, however, erect a little building at Holroyd Hill, called the "Antinomian Chapel," which was sold in 1827, for the sum of £160, to Thos. Wyrill, Richd. Garnett, Wm. Mackay, and John Russell, all of whom were connected with Horton Lane Chapel, Bradford. The vendors on behalf of the Antinomians were Jacob Wright, Robert Wilson, and William Whitacre. Between the years 1827 and 1831 the school-room was enlarged, and a Sunday School was conducted in it until 1841, when it was transferred to the new chapel on Carr Top, called "Zion Chapel," which forms such a conspicuous object in the landscape. For many years the congregation of Horton Lane Chapel maintained an interest in the Independent Chapel at Wibsey. The total cost of this chapel, including the ground, was about £1500; and as a pleasing illustration of the practical character of the voluntary principle at that time it may be stated, that within four years this sum was raised and the chapel was

clear of debt. For this the people of Wibsey were chiefly indebted to the unwearied exertions of Mr. Richard Garnett, of Bradford, who, as superintendent of the Sunday school for nineteen years, spared no exertions to promote the well-being of the community. In November, 1842, the church was formed, and in the following January elected as its pastor Mr. John Paul, who had laboured in the village with much success for nine years as agent of the Horton Lane Christian Instruction Society. Mr. Paul continued its minister until his death in 1860, a period of twenty-six years, and died at Wibsey, dearly beloved by the people who had benefited much by his teachings. The name of John Paul will long be held in grateful remembrance in Wibsey. He was an earnest, faithful and devoted Christian minister ; and was endeared to many by his eminent social qualities. The Rev. James Innes was appointed Mr. Paul's successor, in January, 1861, and he still continues the minister. In May, 1863, a new Day and Sunday school, costing £567, was erected adjoining the chapel, as a memorial of the late minister ; and in 1868 a debt of £556 was incurred in repewing and improving the chapel, both of which amounts were discharged at the time. A further sum of £200 was expended in 1875 in decorating the chapel.

As has been stated, a Sunday school was opened in 1827, through the instrumentality of members of Horton Lane Chapel, and among the first labourers were Richard Garnett, William Mackay, William Hardcastle, Henry Brown, William Milnes, Thomas Wyrill, and others. The school was opened on April 8th in that year with sixty boys and seventy-three girls, sermons being preached by Mr. Jessop and Mr. Vint, of Idle. The collection amounted to £6 5s. 6d. The next collection made for expenses of worship in January, 1828, after sermons by Mr. Hobson, of Idle, and the Rev. Thomas Taylor, Bradford, realised in the afternoon 6s. 10d., and in the evening £1 14s. 9d. The following extract from the report presented at the Whitsuntide festival in 1874 affords a striking contrast to these items :—Scholars on the books (Sunday school), 502 ; morning average attendance, 269 ; afternoon average, 375. The day school average attendance during the past year was 300. The last collection for the schools realised £70. In connection with the Independent Chapel there is a Young Men's Society of more than ordinary vitality and usefulness, and possessing an excellent library and appliances for evening instruction. Although connected with the above place of worship, it admits members from the village generally without respect to creed.

Practically, however, the Wesleyans were the earliest pioneers in the work of social improvement in Wibsey. In truth, they needed to

be both stout-hearted and strong-limbed to undertake such a work. Nevertheless, considering the "rudeness and vulgarity" which prevailed, they built a day school in School Lane, but such was the rough character of the Wibsey lads that two or three masters left it in despair. It was no unusual thing for these rough spirits to announce their arrival at school by pushing through a panel of the door! In this emergency, however, the "right man" was found in the person of Mr. Joseph Wright, who for thirty-three years conducted this school on his own responsibility. During his time a large proportion of the youth of the village passed under his scholastic control, and it is not too much to state that to his solid learning and tact in imparting instruction to others, much of the improvement in the life and manners of the village may be attributed. Many of his pupils have since risen to responsible positions in the neighbourhood. It is satisfactory to add, moreover, that what was so unpromising a field for his predecessors, has yielded to Mr. Wright a moderate competence. This day school has now 300 scholars, and the building has recently been enlarged at a cost of £800. The school-room, in addition to the day-school taught there, was used for divine worship for many years until 1838, when the chapel on Holroyd Hill was built. In 1851 the Wesleyan Society at Wibsey comprised 300 members. About that time occurred the disruption which will long be remembered in the annals of Methodism, and of the 300 members all but twenty-five embraced the cause of Everett, Griffiths, and Dunn, and became Reformers. With this overwhelming preponderance against them, the minority gave up the chapel to the Reformers, who have since much enlarged it. The Conference party were, however, left with the school-room, in which preachings were held until 1869, when the neat Gothic chapel now possessed by them was erected, the cost being about £3000. Mr. Samuel Ackroyd, of Aycliffe Hill, has been a generous contributor towards this edifice, having, besides other assistance, given the sum of £2000.

The handsome Gothic church of St. Paul, at Buttershaw, was built in the year 1838, at the expense of the late Mr. John Hardy. The living is a vicarage worth £280 per annum, and is in the gift of the Hardy family. The present vicar is the Rev. R. V. Reynolds. The Wesleyan Reform Chapel at Slack Side was built in 1832, and it formerly belonged to the old Wesleyan body. In connection with it there is also a Sunday-school. In 1841 the late Mr. John Hardy built the National School at Buttershaw, and more recently a good school in connection with St. Matthew's Church, Bankfoot, was erected, principally by the Low Moor Company. The above schools are all avail-

able for Wibsey village, and provide accommodation which contrasts very favourably with that afforded prior to the year 1821.

The township of North Bierley would appear to stand high in regard to the patriarchal years attained by many of its inhabitants. As a remarkable instance of this longevity, we have seen a list of seventy-five names of persons, all resident in Wibsey, and personally known to one individual, who had attained an average age of $83\frac{1}{4}$ years, many of them being still living. One old lady, named Shaw, 97 years of age, is still (1875) hale and hearty. Another veteran, named Mitchell, who kept the Hare and Hounds at Bankfoot, was never known to wear a hat or other covering out of doors, but that did not prevent him reaching his 89th year. His family were noted as long livers. Another member of it named Johnny Mitchell sank the first pit on Wibsey Slack. Elizabeth Myers, of Low Moor, completed her 101st year, and Joseph Hanson his 97th; John Worsnop, a pensioner, at Wibsey, died in his 100th year, without, however, witnessing its completion. Although, by reason of its altitude, Wibsey enjoys a comparative immunity from sickness, it cannot dispense with its village doctor. Dr. Henry A. Warburton, who has practised in the village for about thirty years, is the third generation of his name who have practised in the same house. The present Dr. Warburton's grandfather was Mr. James Threapland Warburton, who died about fifty years ago. His son, also bearing the same name, died about eighteen years ago. All three have enjoyed a well-earned reputation, and have been rewarded by a large practice for their professional skill and easy charges. At the death of the present doctor's father the public subscribed for and erected a neat and substantial monument to his memory in the Independent Chapel-yard, Wibsey.

Having thus considered some of the principal features relating to the past and the present of Wibsey, it may fairly be concluded that, in regard to this village at least, the "good old times" were not comparable to the present, much as they are lauded upon occasions. In the ample means of employment, in improved dwellings (although there is room for further improvement here), in educational appliances, and in the facilities for religious worship, the gain is all on the side of the present.

Continuing our survey of the north-western extremity of North Bierley, represented by Slackside, Reeve Hall, Busk Ing, &c. (uninviting enough from a superficial aspect, but immensely rich in mineral wealth), we come to Beck Hill and Buttershaw. Near the former place are the Shelf Ironworks, established by Messrs. Haydon & Helliwell, but pur-

chased in 1824 by the Low Moor Company, and which now form part of their vast concern. The village of Shelf has been largely indebted to a branch of the Bottomley family, namely, Messrs. Moses Bottomley and Sons, for its manufacturing industry, and there are several substantial residences occupied by members of the family in the neighbourhood, the most prominent being Shelf Hall. The church is a neat Gothic erection, built by the late Mr. John Hardy. Carr House School, built in 1816, was erected on land given by John Pollard, who reserved a small plot of land adjoining for a private burial-ground. Many members of the Pollard family are buried here.

Buttershaw, with its pretty Saxon name, is quite of modern creation, having in great measure sprung up since the large worsted manufactory, built and worked by Messrs. S. Bottomley & Bros., at Buttershaw Roughs, was erected. In explanation of the term "Buttershaw Roughs," it may be stated that previous to 1852, the land in question was in a "rough" state, being covered with huge boulder stones and furze. These boulders, or "earthfasts," have been cut up for building stone, and thus scores of acres of moorland have been made ploughable which were "rough" enough before. The land at Buttershaw was a portion of the Beaumont estate, and Messrs. Bottomley Bros. purchased the site of their present mill and adjoining lands at the final sale of that family's estate in Wibsey.

The Bottomleys are an old Shelf family, and the members of it who erected the Buttershaw Mills are Messrs. Samuel, Thomas, and James Bottomley. These gentlemen having commenced business at Brighouse, and afterwards at Victoria Mill, Low Moor, ultimately purchased the site of the present mill at Buttershaw Roughs, and commenced working there in 1852. Since then additions in continuation of the original plan have been made, resulting in the present handsome pile of manufacturing premises. The especial business carried on is the spinning and manufacturing of alpaca, mohair and worsted, and about 1200 hands are employed. In addition to this Messrs. Bottomley employ about 200 hands at Victoria Mill, Low Moor. Fronting the Halifax Road, but with a good breadth of grass land between, stands the spinning mill, about 190 feet in length, and five storeys in height. In the lower rooms the drawing is also carried on. The warehouse occupies a position parallel with the spinning mill, and divided from it by a large paved area. It is about 210 feet in length. A large weaving shed, holding some 750 looms, and a combing and carding shed are situate at the end and rear of the last-named buildings; and there are also sheds for dressing, twisting, &c., with additional room for 170 looms; a piece warehouse and immense

cellarage for storing, &c. In the rear are grease-extracting premises, in which the firm utilise the suds and refuse. The works are propelled by means of three engines of 40-horse power each. Farfield House, the residence of Mr. Jas. Bottomley, situate in its own ornamental grounds, flanks the end of the estate nearest to Bradford.

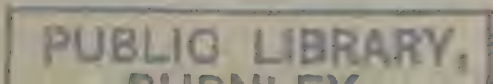
Connected with the works at Buttershaw there are about fifty cottages, and there have been erected besides from two to three hundred similar dwellings, many of them built by working men connected with the place. There is a thriving Co-operative Society, a Temperance Society, and other institutions. In 1858 two of the partners, namely, Mr. Samuel and Mr. Thomas Bottomley, retired from the firm; since that time the business has been carried on by Mr. Jas. Bottomley and his sons, the old name of the firm being still retained. Mr. Samuel Bottomley resides at Hargreaves Head, and Mr. Thomas at High Bentley, both in the immediate neighbourhood.

The Congregationalists have a neat chapel of Gothic design at Buttershaw, which was opened in March, 1870, the cost of the building and site being £2500. There had been for many years a numerously-attended Sunday school conducted by this denomination in Carr House School, Shelf, but the limited accommodation it afforded, and its distance from Buttershaw, led to the erection (in 1875) of the handsome school adjoining the present chapel. Its cost was about £3000.

Instead of proceeding direct to Low Moor from Buttershaw, we are tempted to proceed there by a more circuitous route, in order to visit a district of which Bradfordians generally know too little. Crossing the Halifax Road at Beck Hill, leaving Shelf to the right, we stroll down Mannerly Lane (an obvious corruption of Manor, as the lane crosses the boundary between Shelf and North Bierley), and after a sudden dip and ascent we come to Riding Hill and High Bentley. The views from here are very extensive. At High Bentley there are some old houses with dates from 1600 to 1661, the history of which it would be interesting to know. Several of them have evidently been used for religious worship by the inhabitants of the surrounding neighbourhood in times gone by, and, in addition, their substantial structure and antique style of architecture render them very interesting as relics of a past age. The one known as High Bentley Farm has recently been purchased by Mr. Henry Bottomley, who, having completed a large manufactory at Stone Chair, Shelf, intended to effect considerable alterations in the old house. On turning up the flagstones near the house, however, he found traces of graves, and he has left them undisturbed. Coffins were also found in an adjoining field. To whom

these belonged no records probably exist to show. And what matters it, if their names are writ in the Book of Life? The building in front of which these were found is dated 1661, although it may be that some portions of it are older even than that. The centre of the block is still known as the "little chapel," and it has evidently been a place of some note. It is now occupied as a living room by Mr. Tempest, but the balustrades of a gallery loft are still preserved. A curious feature over the present fireplace is a large coat of arms, with the Royal motto "Dieu et Mon Droit," flanked by supporting figures and the emblems of Ireland and Scotland. The initials surmounting this device are C. R. (Chas. Rex), and the date is the same as on the outside doorway, 1661. Some initials on the mantelpiece seem to be of more recent origin, and these are R. W. I. W. At Low Bentley, which is close by, there is an older house still, the date being 1600, and the initials W. C., T. C. This has evidently been a most substantial residence, and contains some curious old corridors and doors. Jakeroyd, a little lower down, bears the date 1680, and the initials G. B. I. B. It is seldom that such a cluster of substantial old structures are found in such close proximity, but Mannerly Lane, now a mere by-lane, would at the time of their erection be a considerable highroad.

As to the religious faith of the worshippers at the little chapel named above we have little but conjecture to guide us. About a hundred years ago it was used by Presbyterians, and later still by the promoters of Whichfield Chapel, Shelf. It is in the worshippers there a hundred years before that period that we are more interested. The entire neighbourhood was conspicuous for the number of its Dissenters from the Established Church, who were doubtless more pronounced by their proximity to Coley, the scene of the labours of Oliver Heywood. In the little meeting-house, with its long-forgotten burial-ground, we have relics of that period. A vague tradition exists that it was once used by the Catholics, but of this we could find no substantiation. From its position and the initials it was not improbably the house of one Mrs. Wright, where, says Heywood, "we had most solemn and numerous meetings, almost 100 persons at once in a more private place than ever before, where I can sing and speak as loud as I please without fear of being overheard." Well-to-do Nonconformists, of whom there were many in this neighbourhood, willingly set apart a portion of their houses at this time for religious worship, among which Mr. Heywood, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Root, and other ministers itinerated. An interesting custom obtained amongst these people at this period. On the completion of their dwelling-houses, dedication services were held, during which the family initials were chiselled over their doors.



Before leaving High Bentley, we visit Mr. Thomas Bottomley's new residence, which is close by, and in which he has gathered one of the choicest collections of antique furniture and porcelain to be found in this part of the country. As the various articles have been collected from the old homesteads in the neighbourhood, they are especially valuable on that account, as representative of the style in which some of these old houses were furnished "lang syne." The collection is particularly rich in ancient cabinets (the predecessors of the modern cheffonier), bureaux, chests and chairs. The *pièce de resistance*, however, is a noble bedstead, the discovery of which and its subsequent restoration is dilated upon with some satisfaction by the owner. In the same room there is a valuable specimen of Italian art, in the form of a cabinet, with a number of Scripture scenes depicted in the panels. Some of the articles are dated 1620 and 1640, and all are most elaborate specimens of the carved work of the period. Any one interested in such antiquities will find a cordial reception at High Bentley.

Proceeding down Mannerly Lane the visitor may either strike off into the Royds Hall woods to the left or continue the descent forward. In either case he will find himself among pleasant scenery. In the recesses of the woods he may rusticate in almost primeval seclusion, oblivious of smoke or the clatter or clang of either machinery or steam hammers. A pleasant stroll will lead past Ox Heys and Dean House and the "Robber's Cave" to Norwood Green, and lower still to Upper and Lower Rookes, from which the former owners of Royds Hall take their name.

Norwood Green was until recently a green or waste, but it has its little history and associations. There are a few houses close by at least two centuries old. The Moravians licensed here one of their first preaching stations after coming into Yorkshire. In 1819 the inhabitants, assisted by Mr. Holland, of Slead House, built the present school-house as a Day and Sunday school, all subscribers of £1 and upwards having a vested interest in engaging and dismissing teachers. Joseph Boothroyd was the first day schoolmaster, and he was succeeded by Thomas Woodhead, Joseph Wright, and others. The Sunday school was apparently conducted at a very moderate cost, as we judge by a minute of the meeting held in 1830 to make arrangements for the anniversary, when it was decided to have two sermons instead of one, as twelve shillings were required to meet the expenses of the next year! Norwood Green has for many years been connected with the Congregational Chapel, Wyke. There is now a day school for girls, and a new Congregational Chapel is contemplated.

LIBRARY

Not far from Norwood Green, and occupying a very commanding position, stands Coley Chapel, the original of which was built soon after the year 1500. There is no village of Coley, although a large tract of the adjoining district takes that name. The old church was entirely re-built in 1816, and the following inscription over the west porch records a former remodelling :—"This place of God's worship was repaired when there were Coley chapel wardens Joshua Knight, jun., Shelf; John Bartle, Northowram; and Will. Mann, Lightcliffe Chapel, A.D. 1711." There is a spacious burial ground. Within the chapel there is a monument to Nathan Sharp and his wife, who died respectively May 12, 1753, and March 22, 1727. This Mr. Sharp was master of Hipperholme Grammar School for thirty years. The present vicar is the Rev. W. H. Wawn, who has held that office since 1847. The living is in the gift of the Vicar of Halifax, and is worth £400 per annum.

The most prominent item of historic interest attaching to Coley Chapel is its having been the scene of the ejection, in 1662, of Oliver Heywood, one of the most zealous and faithful ministers of the Gospel. Mr. Heywood was born in 1629, near Bolton, in Lancashire, and was designed from his birth for the ministry. Having passed through Trinity College, Cambridge, he was invited to Coley, the stipend being :—£10 from the chapel lands, and £20 from the people's contributions. His annual income at Coley never exceeded £36 a year, but he had a small paternal estate at Bolton, Lancashire. Hunter says that "of taste, intelligence, and refinement, there appears to have been little at Coley; and on the whole, few places could be less promising and inviting to a young man from the university." Nevertheless, during the first ten years of Heywood's ministry seventy-three names had been added to the church covenant. The struggle for religious liberty was during that period becoming very pronounced throughout the kingdom, especially in the Northern provinces, and both pastor and a large proportion of the people at Coley were markedly imbued with the prevailing spirit of Independency. The Civil War, peculiarly a contest for religious liberty, was over. During the Protectorate, Independency was upon high places, but no sooner was Cromwell dead than the storm began to gather. With the Restoration it was soon apparent that measures were in contemplation to enforce the old uniformity. Heywood states that as he was about to commence his service (in the Presbyterian form), a Book of Common Prayer was laid upon the cushion of the pulpit, which he quietly removed to the lower desk. A month after, he was served with a citation, and went to York to answer it, but the hearing was

put off by an adjournment. On June 29, 1662, he was suspended from the exercise of his ministry, and in August following, the well-known Act of Uniformity was passed. In 1663, came the Farnley Wood Plot, when several of the principal inhabitants of the district, including Jeremiah Marsden, Oliver Heywood, Capt. Hodgson, Joshua Horton, of Sowerby, Dr. Maud, and others, were seized. Captain Hodgson says, "There were in our number eighty prisoners, members of Parliament, officers, &c." In October, 1665, came the heaviest blow, perhaps, of all, namely, the Five Mile Act, which prohibited non-conforming ministers from coming within five miles of any place in which they had formerly ministered. For some time after this Mr. Heywood was a wanderer, and suffered much, occasionally enduring the straits of famine, but preaching on available occasions. In 1669, during the absence of his successor, Mr. Hoole, he was asked to preach at Coley Chapel, which he did, but a warrant was issued against him for £10. Warrants were also granted against several persons for being hearers. Mr. Heywood's goods were distrained upon, but nobody would buy them.

After twelve years' suspension Mr. Heywood received his license to preach, and he then bought a house and two crofts at Northowram, for which he paid £66 13s. 4d. To this house he removed from Coley Hall (where Captain Hodgson had given him an asylum), and formed a congregation, himself becoming the pastor. In 1688 the chapel at Northowram, since rebuilt, but still known by his name, was erected, principally from his own private resources. In his old age he received many invitations from wealthy congregations, but he steadily refused them all. When he could no longer walk he was carried into the assembly, and still preached with energy and fervour. He died on May 2, 1702, aged 73 years, and was interred in Halifax churchyard, but no stone, monument, or inscription can be found there to perpetuate his memory.

Coley Hall is associated with the names of Rishworth, Sunderland, Horton, and Captain John Hodgson. It is said to have been a priory in former times. The Rishworths are the first recorded possessors, being mentioned as early as 1371. The Sunderlands, a noted family, were the next owners. They were by far the most considerable persons in the chapelry, and were a liberal as well as a wealthy family. One of them, Langdale Sunderland, was an officer in the Royal army, and in consequence of expenses incurred in the King's service, and sequestrations made upon him when the war was over, his fortune was so much reduced that he had to part with his estate at Coley in 1652, when it was purchased by Wm. Horton, of Barkisland. Lang-

dale Sunderland died at Ackton, near Pontefract, in 1698, aged 81. His uncle, Samuel Sunderland, of Harden, near Bingley, was of very penurious habits, and was the subject of the robbery of £2500, which is referred to more fully in a subsequent portion of this work; but he gave the lands for Hipperholme Grammar School, which was completed in 1661. This Samuel and another brother, Peter, made large fortunes by trade in London, and Peter Sunderland endowed the lectureship at Bradford Parish Church. The Coley estate, after being in the possession of the Horton family until 1788, was re-purchased by another branch of the Sunderlands, who still reside there. The present fabric is modern. The gateway bears the date 1649, and there is a device of a hare and two hounds. During the ownership of the Hortons, the Hall was leased to Captain John Hodgson, who after being employed in several actions in Sir Thomas Fairfax's army, returned to Coley, where he acted as a magistrate. He was a sincere Dissenter, and while lessee of Coley Hall, gave an acceptable asylum there to Oliver Heywood. Captain Hodgson's entrance on military life took place in the following manner:—He was at church at Coley one Sunday in December, 1641, when news was brought of a Royalist attack made upon the adjoining town of Bradford, and of the inhabitants, who had taken refuge in the parish church, being in great danger. The preacher spoke so movingly respecting the incident that Hodgson and some others at once made their way to Bradford with what weapons they could find, principally scythes fastened on poles, and caused a diversion of the attack. This led to Hodgson being made an ensign, and afterwards captain in Fairfax's army. Soon after followed the first siege of Bradford.

From this digression, justified we trust by the local and historical interest attaching to the scenes just visited, we must retrace our steps to Royds Hall, one of the finest old houses in the parish. In ascending from Horseclose Bridge we have a good view of the park, which formerly stretched away to some distance, and in which the former lords of North Bierley enjoyed the pleasures of the chase. As we take a-circuit of the grounds we disturb scores of rabbits that kick their heels and exhibit little white tufts of tails at us in apparent high dudgeon. Some portions of the old park wall now remain. The situation of the old mansion at Royds is a very commanding one. Seated on high table land, there is an extensive prospect from the front over the intervening country, and away to the Derbyshire hills. Both in its exterior and interior Royds Hall is a very fine specimen of the houses built by the gentry of the reign of James I., and of the domestic style of architecture prevailing at that period, when strength

and security began to give place to domestic comfort and elegance. The external walls are massively built with the stone found in the neighbourhood. The windows are very large and mullioned, and although modernised by the introduction of plate glass for the ancient "diamonds," the innovation is a pardonable one. In other respects the former characteristics of the old mansion have been carefully preserved by the gentleman now residing there, Mr. William Nugent Smyth. Internally, the mansion is divided into greater and lesser halls, with corridors communicating with them and the entertaining rooms. A portion of the building—the lesser hall—bears the date of 1651, the west end 1656, and the eastern end was added about 1770 by the then owner, Edward Rookes Leeds. A date over the porch indicates that the earliest portion of the building was erected in 1640 by William Rookes, who married the daughter and heiress of Richard Wilkinson, of Bradford. A former William Rookes, however, was lord of the manor of North Bierley in 1538, so that the present building has probably arisen on the site of a previous manor house, which Mr. James supposes would be one of the old timber houses of the period. The old hall is variously described as Roades, Rodes, Roydes, &c.

We do not find that Royds Hall had any such distinction conferred upon it during the Civil Wars as its companion building at Bowling. The Rookes family were strong Royalists, and when the tide of victory turned in favour of the Parliamentarians, the estates of the family were among the first to be sequestered for the use of the Parliament. Many of the families of the neighbourhood, however, were allowed to compound in sums varying from £300 to £3000. It was during this time that the family concealed much treasure, some of which has since been discovered.

The last of the ancient family of the Rookes, who assumed the name of Leeds on his marriage with the daughter and heiress of Robert Leeds, of Milford, was familiarly known as "Squire Leeds." He was a justice of the peace, and a "bench in himself." His court-room at Royds Hall may yet be seen at the end of the building near the stables, and there are about it unmistakable signs, in the broad flight of steps outside and the justice chair within, of its ancient uses. Many humorous tales are told of the "Squire," who seems to have been a character in his way, and a specimen of an eccentric justice of the olden time. Of course he knew everybody in the district, and beyond being somewhat irascible, had a tolerable reputation. As an illustration of the familiar style of dispensing "justice" in these days, the following stories will suffice:—An old

man in Carr Lane, named Pearson, had lost his mule, and having got wind of the missing animal and also of the thief, went up to Royds Hall to consult the Squire as to whether he should "fetch law" to get the animal back again. "Law! law!" said the Squire, "there's no law for a donkey!" "Isn't there?" said old Pearson. "Well, then, I'll help mysen to t' best I can finnd on t' common as I go hoam!" and was making his way out. "Stop, stop, Robert. I'll give thee a warrant," called out the Squire—a step no doubt that saved him some trouble afterwards. On another occasion a robbery of £30 was committed at Coley Chapel-house, which caused some sensation in the country side, but no clue could be got to the thief. A "wiseman" at Halifax was therefore consulted, who in return for his fee declared that if the guilty party did not return the money by a certain day, some awful calamity would befall him! Of course the saying of the wiseman soon reached the ears of the culprit, who, it seems, was a man named Stocks, of Norwood Green, and in deadly terror he endeavoured to plant the stolen money (except a little he had spent) in an adjoining barn, but was discovered, accused of the theft, and taken before Squire Leeds, at Royds Hall. The Squire, having heard the story, said, "Well, Stocks, it was cleverly done, but for being frightened by a wiseman into taking the money back, thou deservest sending to the Devil, and I'll send thee too!" However, it does not appear that he meant much by the threat, for when Stocks's father agreed to make up the deficient money, the culprit was discharged under promise to do better in future. Such was law and justice at that time at Royds Hall.

Squire Leeds, the justice, and lord of the rich manors of North Bierley and Wibsey, died in 1787, by his own hand, and hopelessly involved in difficulties. To him the mineral wealth beneath his broad acres was an unknown quantity, and although in some measure aware of its existence, he lacked the energy and means to reap the rich harvest. These two manors, now known as the Manor of Royds Hall, were, as previously described, purchased in 1788 by the Low Moor Company, namely, Messrs. Hird, Dawson, Jarratt, and Hardy. After the estate passed to this Company, Royds Hall became the residence of Mr. Joseph Dawson, one of the partners, "a man of a philosophic, sagacious mind, who first discovered and directed attention to the mineral riches of Low Moor." He was the friend of Priestley, the electrician, and acquainted with most of the philosophers of the period. Royds Hall was at that time the scene of many interesting experiments in natural phenomena. We have the testimony of an old lady who was cook there during Mr. Dawson's time, that "he had a many curious things in his room to try experiments with that she did not understand." Mr.

Dawson was a Unitarian, and used to preach at the old chapel in Chapel Lane. On one occasion a Quaker friend of his paid him a visit, and was taken by Mr. Dawson round the works at Low Moor. Seeing a number of cannon ready for removal to their destination, the man of peace said, "Friend Joseph, has thy preaching come to this? Making things like these to kill thy fellow-men?" We cannot supply the answer. Previously to his connection with Low Moor Mr. Dawson was minister at the Presbyterian (now the Upper Independent) Chapel at Idle, and while officiating in that capacity speculated in coal mines on Idle Moor, which turned out profitably. Mr. Dawson died in 1813. He was long connected with the old Unitarian Chapel, Bradford, and is interred there, as is also his son, Christopher H. Dawson, who died in 1865, aged 87, and his two daughters Rachel and Mary, who each died in their 90th year. The above Mr. C. H. Dawson resided during his long life at Royds Hall, and was an active partner at Low Moor Works. The hall was afterwards occupied by his only daughter, Miss Eliza Dawson, and is now, as above mentioned, the residence of Mr. W. N. Smyth, the principal manager of the works. Miss Eliza Dawson died at Bramhope Manor, near Otley, in May, 1875. It was known to very few that she six years ago made donations anonymously, amounting in the whole to more than £10,000, to the Bradford Infirmary, Fever Hospital, the Eye and Ear Hospital, the Blind Institution, the Tradesmen's Home, the Orphans' Home, and the Spinsters' Endowment Fund, a stipulation being attached to each that the name of the donor should be withheld.

By a somewhat "roundabout" course we arrive at Wibsey Low Moor, the principal feature of which, the Ironworks, is noticed in a separate paper.

Turning first to its ecclesiastical history, we find abundant material to cull from relating to the ancient chapel of Wibsey, which is dedicated to the Holy Trinity. For many years this church was under the pastoral oversight of the Rev. Joshua Fawcett, M.A., who jealously preserved the memorials associated with the place, as became a true antiquary. The date of its erection appears, from an ancient tablet and other evidences, to have been about 1606, thus being the oldest chapelry, except that of Haworth, connected with the parish church of Bradford. The original chapel seems to have been but a mean thatched building, and its erection is attributed principally to Wm. Rookes, of Royds Hall, and Richard Richardson, of Bierley Hall, and in 1636 it was consecrated, in consequence of a petition from the influential residents of the neighbourhood, guaranteeing to pay £20 10s.

per year towards the support of a minister. At first there seems to have been great difficulty in obtaining a sufficient endowment for the curacy, for in a Parliamentary survey which took place nineteen years after the consecration, it is stated that the living was then only worth 40s. a year besides what was given as above described. The following appears in the church books as the value of the living some years ago:—Queen Anne's Bounty, £152 3s. 6d.; Craco Farm, £10; pew-rents, £64; land, £25; paid by Low Moor Company, £90; fees, £15; total, £356 3s. 6d. The living is still worth about that sum, and is in the gift of the Vicar of Bradford. A farm called Penny Close, in Wibsey, was left by a man called John Wilton in 1669 in the care of certain trustees, who, after deducting 40s. a year to be given to one poor man, should pay the remainder of the rent to the minister of Wibsey Chapel. The 40s. is, we believe, now given to one or other of certain poor persons attending the church, although for some years it was distributed among several persons not receiving parochial relief.

Although still called Wibsey Chapel, that being the old manorial and ecclesiastical title, the sacred edifice is at no considerable distance from the Low Moor furnaces, as the dusky hue of its outer walls testifies. The archæologist, eager only after "things as they were," or the poet or painter, searching for a subject of inspiration, need not visit Low Moor Church. There are none of the glorious surroundings—the "rugged elms" and venerable oaks clustering round and enshrouding an "ivy-mantled pile," which are to be found on many a village green. Neither need the architect in search of a classic model hope to find it in the composite character of the present edifice. Instead, however, they will find a substantial, comfortable, and spacious place of worship, of comparatively recent erection, with nave, chancel, transepts, and a large gallery round three sides of the edifice. In 1819 an additional burial ground was consecrated, and in 1820 the church was enlarged, at a cost of about £500. In 1837, principally through the exertions of the Rev. Joshua Fawcett, the church was so greatly enlarged and altered as to be almost rebuilt, at a cost of about £1200, part of which was raised by subscription, and part by the profits of a bazaar held in the Exchange Buildings, Bradford. Richard Hardy and George Hanson were churchwardens at this period. Eight bells, weighing 62 cwt., were cast for the church in 1840, by Messrs. Mears, of London, which are considered very musical. The tower of Holy Trinity has since that time sent forth many a merry peal of "Kent triple bob major" (whatever that may mean), under the leadership of Josiah Barraclough and others. In 1855 the church was repewed, and an organ has been erected within the past few years. During 1873

chancel stalls for the choir were added, of chaste design in oak. There is an ancient sun-dial affixed to the south wall of the church, to which a curious circumstance attaches. After being replaced in 1837 it remained for many years without its style, and was therefore of no use, when Mr. Fairfax Wooler, one of the sidesmen of the church, undertook to supply the deficiency, and succeeded in reproducing a true model. When about to fix it to the dial-face, however, Mr. Jonas Jowett came up, and remarked that he "had a thing like that in his stable, but did not know what it belonged to." On being fetched it proved to be the long-lost style, of exactly the angle Mr. Wooler had made, and it was restored to its old position. In consequence of the mason not having put in the dial-face true, it is in error twice a year. Mr. Wooler also sought up the circular sun-dial which is erected over the principal porch. This is dated 1634.

Entering the principal porch of the church the visitor, especially if he has an eye for antiquity, will not fail to notice the six curiously ornamented monumental slabs in the base of the tower. These slabs bear dates 1651, 1652, 1654, 1656, 1660, and 1729 respectively, and are all commemorative of various members of the Rookes family. These tablets were sought for with great care, but without success, until the church was repewed, when they were found buried under the floor in front of the communion table, where they had been long concealed. At the same time were found two chalices belonging to the communion plate, bearing the arms of Rookes, and an inscription showing that they were given in 1683 by George Rookes, of "Rood's Hall." To record these facts the late Mr. Stansfield, of Esholt Hall (a descendant of the Rookes), erected a tablet over the communion table of the chapel. The east window of the church is divided into sections of stained glass in memory of various members of the congregation. The stonework of this window formed part of the original edifice erected in 1606. Companion windows on each side of the communion table, although of small size, are of exquisite workmanship, and are erected to the memory of James Fenton, C.E., who died April 22, 1863, aged 47. Mr. Fenton was a gentleman held in universal esteem during his connection with the Low Moor Works. Another noticeable window in the side aisle was erected by the late Rev. Joshua Fawcett, in loving remembrance of a daughter named Harriet Elizabeth, who died in 1860. The subject is taken from Mark x. 14. The window was afterwards carried forward to the extent of the gallery lights by a few of the parishioners. Among the memorial tablets within the sanctuary, one records the names of four daughters of the Rev. Joshua Fawcett. Another is to the memory of Samuel Bateman,

of Pannal, who died July 20, 1860, and of Emily Bateman, daughter of James Bateman, who died May 26, 1871. Another, erected by the Low Moor Company, is to the memory of William Shorrocks, who died in 1851. A monument of great interest is the elaborate memorial in coloured marbles, erected by his parishioners to mark the esteem in which the late Rev. Joshua Fawcett was held. The tablet is a costly work of art, and its value to those who knew the late incumbent is enhanced by the faithful preservation in medallion form of the calm and placid features of the esteemed pastor.

Of the ministers who have officiated at Holy Trinity, it appears from an inscription on an old bell that one "J. F." held the charge in 1640. Tempest Ellingworth was minister in 1655. Samuel Crowther succeeded Mr. Ellingworth, and was twenty-three years curate. He died in June, 1680. There is an interesting tradition that Archbishop Sharp, a native of Bradford, was in early years a candidate for the curacy at Wibsey, but he failed, being outstripped by some one of superior lungs, but inferior talent. This led to his return to college and his subsequent promotion. It is said that whenever he made a visitation in this part of his diocese, he placed the incumbent of Wibsey on his right hand at dinner, saying, with a degree of pleasantry, that he owed much to him for having stood in his way in former years, and thus prevented his settling down in a humble sphere where he might never have been known. Henry Lund, the next curate, died in 1699; William Pollard commenced 1706; William Smith, 1719; Nicholas Woolfe, 1728; Thomas Naylor, 1744 to 1762. Samuel Hudson next held the curacy. It appears that during his time much disorder prevailed in the chapelry. Mr. Hudson had a curate officiating for him named the Rev. John Booth. Mr. Booth was educated at Huddersfield, and when a young man was employed as a cloth-cropper. Being a studious, well-educated youth, he was taken in hand by the venerable Vicar of Huddersfield, who assisted him in his ordination. He was a first-class scholar. The living at Low Moor being very scanty, he went into partnership with another person at Toad Holes, near Oakenshaw, as a cropper. Mr. Booth and his partner kept a bed on the premises, and many a night did the former sit up compiling a Greek lexicon. Mr. Booth was unfortunate in his domestic relationships, and he took to drinking. His son afterwards joined the Luddist rioters at Rawfolds Mill, near Cleckheaton, and was shot on the 11th April, 1812. When Johanna Southcote came into this neighbourhood, propagating her New Jerusalem theory, Mr. Booth foolishly allowed her to preach in Wibsey Church, and for this and his disorderly life he had to quit, but being aware of the Bishop's

intention he resigned in order to save his dignity and title. After this occurrence his reverence eked out a living by giving private lessons in classics, &c., and publishing small pamphlets. He ultimately became a pauper, and dying at Bradford, is interred in the Parish Church-yard.

The Rev. Roger Powell succeeded to the curacy in 1804, and died on the 29th January, 1833. A thorough scholar, a good Christian, and an Evangelical preacher, he was also a considerable benefactor to the living at Wibsey in many respects. Having early embraced Arminianism, he was in this respect quite in advance of most clergymen and Congregationalists. Many of his sermons were published, and in the opinion of some will compare favourably with either Dr. Punshon's or the Rev. Mr. Spurgeon's. He was also a good musician, and frequently made choice of the tunes as well as the words, taking counsel with his neighbour, Mr. Joseph Wright, as to their merits. Although a sterling type of a village parson, he was rather eccentric. On one occasion he paid his usual visit to the gardens of old North, at Horseclose Bridge, and while there made choice of a plant, with which he was coming away, when Mrs. North reminded him that he had forgot to pay for it. "Oh, no," said the parson, "but I must first see whether it is likely to live or not." Some time after this Mrs. North went to his church to have her son baptised. After the ceremony and the registration had been properly performed, Mrs. North left the vestry, when the parson called her back and asked for his fees. "Oh, no, Mr. Powell," said the good lady, "I must first see whether he is likely to live and thrive or not. That's the way you did with my plant!" That the youthful stripling has both "lived and thriven," anyone having the slightest acquaintance with "Bill North" (who was the youth in question), will be able to testify.

The next incumbent, the Rev. Joshua Fawcett, M.A., will long live in the remembrance of the inhabitants of Low Moor, of whatever creed they be. He was truly a pious man and a scholarly gentleman. Born at Bradford in 1809, the son of Mr. Richard Fawcett—a man well known and respected in the annals of Bradford as the head of the worsted trade,—he received his education at the Bradford Grammar School, and afterwards entered Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. degree in 1830. Soon afterwards he was appointed curate of Pannal, near Harrogate, and on the death of Mr. Powell, in 1833, received from his brother-in-law, the Rev. Henry Heap, Vicar of Bradford, the curacy of Wibsey, which he retained until his death in December, 1864. Mr. Fawcett, was, we believe, educated with the view of his becoming Vicar of Bradford, but the

vicissitudes of trade rendered it necessary that his father should part with the advowson, and it was purchased by Simeon's Trustees. When the next vacancy occurred, Dr. Scoresby was appointed. Mr. Fawcett married in 1834 Sarah Elizabeth, third daughter of the Rev. Lamplugh Hird, and sister of H. W. Wickham, Esq., late M.P. for Bradford. During his curacy, the church was enlarged, and he also procured the erection of the present parsonage. Mr. Fawcett was much attached to antiquarian research, especially in matters relating to his native district, and he delivered and published several lectures on topics referring to Bradford. He was not only a diligent pastor, but a useful citizen, and was for many years a Poor Law Guardian. He died suddenly of apoplexy, whilst walking home after visiting the sick, and was buried on 28th December, 1864, in the presence of a vast concourse of persons, in the burial-ground of Holy Trinity. During his pastorate of thirty-one years, Mr. Fawcett received many tokens from his parishioners of their devoted attachment.

The Rev. John Eccleston Burnet, son of Dr. Burnet, vicar of Bradford, next received the living from his father, and preached his first sermon on July 9, 1865. He died September 2, 1873, aged 45. The Rev. Vincent J. Ryan, son of Bishop Ryan, vicar of Bradford, succeeded Mr. Burnet. On the death of the Rev. W. R. Smith, of Christ Church, Bradford, in August, 1875, Mr. Ryan received that appointment. His successor, the present incumbent of Holy Trinity, is the Rev. T. H. Flynn, previously of St. Luke's, Bradford.

What a lesson is taught by an old family tombstone! Here, if anywhere, is laid down in lines that he who runs may read, the record of that constant succession of son and sire which makes up what is called a family history. And when this is repeated over many a crumbling heap in such a "fat churchyard" as that at Wibsey—the burial-place for over two centuries of half the country side—what a parish history is thus written therein! Here may be traced generations of Tordoffs, Lightowlers, Pyrahs, Hardys, Pollards, Priestleys, Barracloughs, Kellets, and many other well-known local family names of North Bierley. Neither time nor space will permit us to pursue the study, but it is an open book to any one so inclined. There are many tombstones, some of them curiously ornamented, bearing the name of Pollard, with dates from 1640 onwards. The Pollards of North Bierley seem to have been a numerous and substantial family of yeomen, and of some standing, as they are named in the Visitation of Yorkshire in 1584. Members of the family formed alliances with the best houses of the neighbourhood, and had residences at Odsal, East Bierley, Wyke, &c. The family is represented in this neighbour-

hood by the Pollards of Scarr Hill, of which there are Joshua Pollard, Esq., and his son, Colonel William Pollard, both justices of the peace. The former is the senior magistrate in the Bradford division. The Rev. Joshua Fawcett unearthed a curious slab dated 1680, with the initials "R. P.," belonging to some members of the Pollard family, on which were the following lines :—

" Here lies a piece of Christ,
A star in dust,
A vein of gold,
A china dish that must
Be used in Heaven
When God shall feast the Just."

This relic is now built into the wall near the vestry door. The churchyard contains monuments to several former pastors, the most recent being those to the Rev. Joshua Fawcett and the Rev. J. E. Burnet. Another keeps in remembrance the "old sexton," Isaac Bower, who for thirty years "gathered them in," until his own time came. The old graveyard being almost full, an addition was made to it last year by enclosing a strip of land given by the Low Moor Company. The new portion was consecrated in April, 1875.

Closely adjoining the church is the substantial building known as the Low Moor Company's School, having been erected by them for a day and Sunday school in 1814. With this school the name of Mr. Charles Hardy is lovingly associated, not only as a supporter, but a Sunday school teacher. The day school has had a successful history, and has been of immense benefit to the neighbourhood. In one respect its history is unique. From 1814 to the present time the school has only had two masters. Mr. Thomas Sutton held the office for twenty-four years, and was succeeded by Mr. John Scott. Mr. Scott has held the appointment for thirty-six years, and is still likely to remain "dominic." Mrs. Elizabeth Scott has been the school-mistress for the same lengthened period. This school was built in substitution of the old Free School at Slack End, Buttershaw, to which an endowment was left by John Smyth, of Heath Hall, in 1705. In connection with Holy Trinity Church there are besides this school two infant schools, one at Hill Top, and another at Raw Nook. The Raw Nook School, built by the Low Moor Company, was opened in 1875.

St. Mark's Church, Low Moor, was built and endowed by the Low Moor Company, the foundation stone being laid by Mr. Chas. Hardy in November, 1855, and it was opened in 1857. It is a handsome structure, the architects whereof were Messrs. Mallinson & Healey. The net value of the living is returned at £170 per annum, and the

church accommodation at 500. Mr. Gathorne Hardy, M.P., is the present patron; and the Rev. Richard Ashe King is the incumbent. Two memorial windows were erected in this church in 1871, commemorative of the former patron, Mr. Charles Hardy. The church was constituted a new parish on its erection, with a population of about 1600. Carr Lane Sunday and day schools and Newbiggin Sunday and day schools are connected with this church.

The Primitive Methodist Chapel was erected five years ago at a cost of £2000, and has a Sunday school connected with it.

Methodism at Low Moor may be said to date its existence from the preaching and organisation of the Rev. John Wesley himself, inasmuch as there is no record of a stated society there before his visit in 1747. Betty Firth, of Great Horton, who was one of the little company who held the prayer meeting at the dungeon door in Ivegate, Bradford, when John Nelson was imprisoned there in May, 1744, came the following year to Low Moor to be housekeeper to her uncle, Matthew Sugden. Although he was not a Methodist, he so far acceded to the wishes of his niece as to allow John Nelson to preach every other week under his roof, and at her request Mr. Wesley was invited to Low Moor. Mr. Wesley preached on April 27th, 1747, under the trees on the "Green" on the north-east side of Mr. Sugden's house, the trees only a few years ago being removed. The shade of these elms and the level green then formed an inviting place of out-door resort. The house now occupied by the Misses Carter, and near to the Low Moor wood yard, forming part of the Royds Hall estate, is the one in which Matthew Sugden then lived. Squire Leeds was the owner of the property, and hearing of Nelson's preaching in the house of his tenant, threatened Sugden with summary ejection should he venture to transgress a second time. Sugden, in defending himself, threw all the blame upon his niece, but requested the Squire, ere he carried his threat into execution, to hear Nelson for himself. He did so, and though not a religious man, was so struck with Nelson's preaching that he befriended the mason-preacher ever afterwards. Mr. Wesley on his first visit to Low Moor was accompanied by Nelson, and the first society was then formed, Ebenezer Pyrah being appointed society steward and leader. Betty Firth afterwards married Thomas Worsnop, one of the earliest leaders at Low Moor, and the sire of an ancient family, of whom many descendants yet remain. Betty was, at the period of Nelson's imprisonment, a member of the Presbyterian Church at Bradford, and although hers was the honour of introducing Methodism into Low Moor, she was never in sentiment truly Wesleyan. Her husband, Thomas, died in 1781, having been a member of the

society for upwards of thirty years. His son, Jonas Worsnop, bending beneath the weight of lengthened years, died in 1840. James Worsnop, brother of Jonas, ended his days a few years ago at Shibden at the advanced age of ninety-six. He was very fond of repeating old stories, and in his dotage was habitually quoting doggerel rhymes in reference to the press-gang that visited the Hut Farm at Buttershaw.

The early Methodists of Low Moor had no definite place of worship from 1747 to 1809. It was no uncommon thing for them to walk to Birstal, to Whichfield (Shelf), or to the Octagon Chapel at Bradford, but previous to the latter year their services were for a time held in the house of George Hoyle, of Raw Nook, near the railway station, an eminently pious and devoted man. Afterwards, by permission of the Low Moor Company, the old barn at present known as School Fold was fitted up by the Society, and used by them as a place of worship from 1798 until 1809, when the present chapel was opened. Although exceedingly unpretentious, this building is neat and comfortable, and it is graced by an organ erected in 1862 at a cost of £200. Various tablets are placed on the walls of the old chapel, one especially worthy of notice being erected to the memory of the late Joseph Carter by his surviving friends. Joseph Carter was manager of the timber yard and saw mills for the Low Moor Company, and lived in the house above referred to. He was a most acceptable and useful local preacher and leader for a period of thirty-four years. The foundation stone of the chapel was laid on Easter Monday, 1808, in the presence of a large concourse of people, by the Rev. John Gaulter. The architect was the late Thos. Woodcock, who was the designer of the blast furnaces at Low Moor Works. The architect studied to combine utility with economy, as we find that the entire cost of the building was not over £1500, and for this sum 640 sittings were provided, of which 260 were free. Mr. Woodcock was a Methodist, and contributed largely of his time and talents to the erection and support of this sanctuary. His grandson, Mr. J. M. Woodcock, now holds the same position under the Low Moor Company that his grandfather did in 1790, and he is at present also the circuit steward in connection with the Wesleyan body at Low Moor. It may be noted here that for a long course of years the managers of the Works have many of them been active Wesleyans, and among them may be named Thomas Woodcock, Thomas Worsnop, Richard Woodcock, Thomas Woodhead, Joseph Carter the elder, Thomas Carter, William Carter, Ebenezer Sargent, George Worsnop, Joseph Child, and Samuel Clough. Joseph Tordoff, although not coming within this list, should

also find a prominent place among the early workers connected with the Low Moor Chapel. In 1854 the chapel was considerably enlarged and an organ gallery added, at a cost of £500, the plans being furnished by the above Mr. J. M. Woodcock. By the generosity of the Low Moor Company a spacious burial-ground was added to the chapel premises in 1838, which, by being tastefully laid out, somewhat relieved the sterile aspect prevailing around. Near the entrance to the chapel is the minister's house, of simple Gothic design, which may perhaps be taken as an indication of the architectural tendencies of the Methodists of Low Moor in this day. The house was erected in 1871 at a cost of over £1000. Until about three years ago Low Moor was in the Bradford West Circuit. It has now been formed into a separate circuit, including the Wesleyan chapels at Wyke and New Road-side and Oxley Place School. The first Sunday school in connection with Methodism at Low Moor was formed in 1812. The branch school in Oxley Place was built in 1844 on land given by Dr. Oxley; it was enlarged in 1847, and rebuilt in 1859, at a total cost of £700.

The cost of the old chapel at Low Moor, £1500, left a serious debt to be grappled with—so serious that in 1830 it was contemplated to make the lower portion of the chapel into cottages, and retain the gallery for worship. At this trying juncture, however, an effort was made which resulted in the debt of £1000 being reduced to £500 in about ten years. This was done by the members advancing small sums without interest, by weekly and monthly contributions, by aiding "according to their ability" at the chapel anniversaries, and by an annual Easter tea-party, which we are assured was the first introduction of that most popular institution among the Methodists in Yorkshire. The fact is worth noting among the annals of our social institutions. It is only justice to the Wesleyan ladies of Low Moor to state that they still hold a prominent position as purveyors of a genuine "Yorkshire tea."

The story of Jonathan Pyrah, a native of Low Moor, and brother of the Ebenezer Pyrah named above, is almost historic,—how that while serving as a private soldier in the Netherlands he foretold the downfall of the houses of Bourbon and Austria, and the battle of Fontenoy. When the war was over in 1745 he returned to England, but the story had got here before him. He was sent for by members of the aristocracy, who wished to hear the story from his own mouth. So much honour, however, was too much for him; it quite turned his brain, and he went stark mad. For some years he resided at Low Moor, but was kept under restraint. At times he had lucid intervals,

and in one of these it is said of him that while standing at Hill Top he put his fingers before his face and exclaimed, "I see something like hell in Black Syke." Black Syke was then a marshy piece of ground, but upon it the great furnaces and forges of Low Moor now stand. This singular prophecy was uttered fully twenty years before such works were thought of. Eventually, however, he became the subject of ungovernable madness, and passed the remainder of his days chained like a dog, in a little hovel adjoining the old Workhouse at Holroyd Hill, Wibsey.

There are a few natives of Low Moor now left who can recall the aspect of the Moor before the Iron era so completely changed the face of the country side. Some of the veterans we have met with could almost count on their fingers the houses once existing from Buttershaw down to Oakenshaw. From Fiddler Hill to the Huddersfield Road (not then in existence) there was one farm house, all the land on what is now called Hill Top being farmed by old Tordoff, and afterwards by "Sergeant" Tordoff, a great celebrity in his day. There were a few cottages about Low Moor House, and several houses about the Church and Park House. Low Moor House had then a pleasant outlook—a nice green stretching before the front entrance. Many now living can recollect the "great spread" made in the open air on this green at the coronation dinner of George the Fourth. Nearly all the natives of the pre-historic period—that is, before the invasion by the men of iron, when the real history of Low Moor begins—were handloom weavers, some of worsted, and the rest of cloth, which latter fabric was carried weekly to Halifax. On August 16, 1791, the first "casting" was made at Low Moor Works, a date that is still celebrated in forgerman's fashion by a distribution of "blowing-in" ale. Carr Lane Tide, a famous event in its way, is also fixed about this time, but this "tide" seems to have originated with Nan Parish, who has the credit, we believe, of starting more than this one. Bull and bear baiting were among the early amusements indulged in at Carr Lane Tide, and the "roughs" of Low Moor at that time were rough customers indeed.

By the steady development of the iron trade a new career was opened up to the future generations at Low Moor, but cloth and worsted weaving still held a lingering existence amongst the old folks. A steady influx of swarthy sons of toil set in towards the district, some of the miners, we believe, coming from Cornwall. New pits were opened, and Low Moor began to acquire a celebrity which it has never lost. A collier's life was at that time, however, one of real hardship, without, as at present, being sweetened by the pleasant chink of

much "brass" at the week's end. Lads were drafted off to the pits at such tender years that it was no uncommon sight to see mothers (who also worked at the pit bank) carrying young lads of six and seven years old on their backs to work. The hours were then from seven to six o'clock, with an hour's stoppage for dinner, and for this long stretch, day after day, a hurrier received 1s. 6d. or 2s. a week, and a man's wages for getting the coal were only 15s. for a full week. The "workings" were then of a very different description from the well-drained and ventilated roadways of the present time, there being little care bestowed on those things. The methods of working were also of a very primitive kind, which made the work harder, especially for the hurrier lads. There were no tramways, and no wheeled corves, but instead of these a sort of scoop was used, which was pushed along by main force. The coals were drawn up and landed by women, who worked "double shifts," their wages being about 7s. a week. In the struggle for life, of which the above facts give some indication, taken in connection with the wretched homes that were most generally to be found—where mother, father, sisters and brothers of all ages were lodged in one or two small rooms—who can wonder at the "roughness" which had almost become a byword for anybody coming from Low Moor at that time? The difficulty in obtaining lads to work in the pits was so great that the Low Moor Company afterwards converted a large farm-house, which stood on the site of the present King's Head Inn (better known as Buttershaw House), into a boarding-house, and took in apprentices, whom they lodged, fed, and schooled. As many as sixty collier lads, collected from Halifax, Hunslet, and other places, have been located here, John Bairstow being the manager. They attended school at School Fold, when old Gledhill was the master. It was in a barn fitted up for the purpose at School Fold that Thomas Holroyd, a book-keeper at the works, established the first Sunday school at Low Moor. His memory is still preserved as a faithful pioneer in a good work.

As the Ironworks progressed at Low Moor, so did the number of houses for workpeople increase. It was about this time that the "shanties" were run up, many of which now exist, and which, as the abodes of a civilised, well-paid community, are a standing disgrace. Not a few of these were erected on the common land by that mysterious process of development described in another paper as taking place on Wibsey Slack, where the huts dignified by the name of houses never were built, but, like Topsy, "grewed." All the land forming Fiddler Hill Farm belonged to Dr. Oxley, who disposed of it to Mr. Garside, and he sold it off in plots. Hill Top, therefore, soon

began to be thickly studded with houses. Unfortunately, the vendor of the land, eager enough to sell, did so on no principle, and thus the more pretentious cottages, even those that aspired to "chamber-height," were many of them huddled into line or shouldered each other into corners with a delightful contempt of regularity. And as for drainage ! The sewage was allowed to flow down the hill side in slimy streams, without any regard as to where it found a lodgment !

Squire Leeds was in his time the only resident gentleman in the immediate neighbourhood, but with the ironworks several came there to reside. The Rev. Lamplugh Hird dispensed justice at Chapel House, near the church, which was also a noted meeting place for the transaction of town's business. William Jowett was for many years the landlord at Chapel House, and was celebrated for giving "good measure." Mr. Joseph Dawson, at Royds Hall, the Rev. Lamplugh Hird, at Low Moor House, and subsequently Mr. Field, at Odsal, were each acquisitions to the district ; a later succession were Mr. C. H. Dawson, Mr. Lamplugh Wickham, and Mr. Charles Hardy.

Not far from Chapel House is Soldier Green. During the alarm of a Bonaparte invasion in 1803, Colonel Hardy's regiment were exercised at Soldier Green, and hence the name. "Bony," as everybody knows, thought better of it than ever to come to England ; otherwise a "warm reception" might have been provided him at Low Moor,—at any rate, both cannon and shot were there in abundance.

A notice of Low Moor celebrities would not be complete without mention of old Doctor Hardy, the quack doctor, who resided near Low Moor House. "Th' Low Moor doctor" commenced his career when a poor labourer, but by dint of study and experiments he became an authority in many cases such as sores, ulcers, scrofula, &c., which baffled the skill of medical men. His charges were very low, generally about sixpence or a shilling, yet he acquired wealth from the frequent £5 notes and even larger sums presented to him by the rich, for many of whom marvellous cures were effected. Dr. Hardy's son Jonathan got most of his father's money, and with it he made many purchases when the Wibsey estate of the Beaumonts was sold. He died not many years after, and left all his real and personal estate to his son, the present Adam Hall Hardy, who possesses a good slice of land in this township and is by far the greatest cottage proprietor in the village of Wibsey.

Another local celebrity in his day was William Seed, the noted fortune-teller and almanack-maker, who in the estimation of more than his neighbours was a very Zadkiel of astrological lore. Old Seed was after all no common trickster. He was a good though self-taught

mathematician and astronomer, and possessed qualifications which rightly directed might have brought him no mean reputation. Another celebrity we may mention simply to introduce a story, the truthfulness of which is generally accepted by the natives of Low Moor. Somebody having found a watch out of doors, the fact was made known to the neighbours, who adjourned in a body to look at the "clicking thing." As none of them, however, had ever seen anything of the sort before, "Wise Willie" was fetched, and great was the anxiety to hear his decision. After being wheeled round the "ticker" two or three times, the wise man declared he could not christen it, but he thought it was "some mak ov a toad !" So, to prevent it committing any harm, many willing hands were at once lent to bury the thing out of sight !

About Low Moor, if anywhere, may still be found the custom of referring to persons by a sort of genealogical description, thus : Jack o' Dose o' Jonas Lightowler's ; or, Sam o' Bill's o' Jacky Tordoff's. The pronunciation in use in the district is also a matter requiring some education. The common name "Tordoff" is almost invariably pronounced "Toardy ;" and instances are on record of persons of this name denying their identity when properly addressed.

The health and mortality of any place are interesting topics, and as affecting such a community as that of Low Moor—where three-fourths of the adult male population are employed in forge work or coal mining,—the subject is of especial interest, as affording data by which to contrast the healthiness of those employments with others. The information given below we have from Dr. Whitteron, of Low Moor—than whom no one has a better acquaintance with the subject—and it may therefore be considered perfectly reliable. With regard to its death-rate North Bierley may be pronounced healthy, that rate averaging less than 21·0 in the thousand, as against 22·2 in eighteen of the largest towns in England. Last year the average was only 19·2 per thousand. This may be accounted for by the inhabitants being well employed and consequently well fed. As to the forgemmen, it is a well-known fact that no class of men live better than they—the laborious nature of their occupation calling for what in others would be considered excess, both in eating or drinking. While at work they drink large quantities of "home-brewed," varying from one to three gallons in the day or night "shift," and this in addition to water. When it is remembered that 2½lbs. is the ordinary amount of cutaneous exhalation in a day, but that in puddlers and slab-forgemmen the amount is as high as 20lbs., it will be seen that the wear and tear constantly going on are tremendous, and except for the renovating process described above, nature would soon be exhausted. Notwithstanding

their exposure to heat, varying from 90 to 140 degs. day after day, the men employed enjoy if anything more than an average share of good health, and even at a good age many of these laborious workers are fine, stalwart, and herculean specimens of humanity. On the other hand, those who indulge in spirituous liquors to excess, or even in strong ales, become physically unfit for hot work, and have to relinquish it and become labourers, being content with one-fourth of their previous wages. With respect to the relative duration of life in forgesmen, we are in possession of many facts showing that the rate of mortality among this class contrasts very favourably with that of the operatives in large towns. Of the male population above fourteen years of age employed by the Low Moor Company, about 1700 are engaged in "hot work." Yet it is a pleasing fact to record that of 100 adult deaths registered as having taken place among forgesmen, not one death is certified as having resulted from intemperance or delirium tremens, and the list does not show a preponderance of any one particular form of disease to which forgesmen are liable. The average age of these 100 deaths is 56·4, and if these figures are compared with the average life of male adults employed in the factories in the neighbourhood, it will be found that the comparison is much in favour of the foundry men, the factory operatives only averaging forty-three years. The average age of pitmen is 51·70, so that even they compare favourably. Hence we learn that forgesmen, despite their habits and apparently hurtful occupation, are longer-lived than either factory operatives or colliers. With regard to prevailing forms of disease existing in the above classes, it has been ascertained that even colliers are less liable to chest disease of a tubercular nature than those employed in the neighbouring worsted mills.

For some time past more regard has been paid at Low Moor to social and domestic arrangements, brought about in many instances by the young females of the community, who insist on better homes than sufficed for their mothers and grandmothers. Consequently, a better class of houses is springing up, with more sleeping accommodation, and thus the separation of the sexes is better observed. Hard as pit work still is, it is considerably lightened by modern appliances, and made more endurable by modern means of ventilation. Above ground, Mrs. Pitman has long since been sent home to her family, and Mr. Pitman, if he has any great distance to go to work, is fetched and brought back again in his own "carriage" at the expense of the company. As to the forgesmen, they were from the first much better paid, but it is doubtful if they were much better off—forge work being always a terribly "dry job." The prevalence of excessive drinking, however,

is not to be compared with what it was thirty years ago, and as some evidence that the people are more provident we may here place upon record a brief history of the North Bierley Building Society, which was begun at Low Moor in July, 1852, with thirty-nine members, paying amongst them £25. The society has thus been established twenty-three years. According to the last balance-sheet it has now 712 shareholders and 456 loan-holders, from whom was received last year £33,064. The total turnover since the commencement of the society has been £255,000. The management of the society has always been, and now is, conducted by working men in their leisure hours. The society was incorporated in 1875. There are besides at Low Moor two penny savings banks, one of which had last report a sum of £2922 placed to the credit of its depositors. The amount deposited by 2722 depositors since the opening of the bank in 1858 was £25,877. The Gas Works, with a capital of £37,000, and the Waterworks (now sold to the Local Board), are also sources of investment, and the Perseverance Mill, Wibsey, and the Oakenshaw and Wyke joint-stock mills were mostly subscribed to by working men. At Hill Top there is an institute with about sixty members, news-room, library, &c., but this can scarcely be considered an adequate provision for the mental improvement of such a large working-class community.

Brief reference only can be made to the industries of Low Moor, other than that given in the succeeding pages to the famed Iron Works, absorbing, as they do, three-fourths of the male community. It would appear, however, that wire-drawing has had a long standing in this neighbourhood. The Park House Works, established by the elder Daniel Bateman, date above a hundred years back, and have grown with age. At Park House the processes of wire-drawing may be seen in all the various stages. The wire for card-making is prepared from the best Swedish iron, which is imported in "blooms" or puddled bars. The peculiarity of this iron consists in its being prepared with charcoal, thus freeing it from sulphur, and giving to it a toughness and elasticity not to be obtained in any English-made iron. The strain that the card-wire has to bear necessitates the qualities named above being imparted to it. It is said that from a "bloom" weighing about 45lbs. wire can be drawn to a length of ninety miles! The wire is delivered to card-makers in coils of various thicknesses, after having been repeatedly annealed and drawn by force through holes (rather smaller than the wire) pierced through plates of malleable steel until the thickness of an ordinary knitting needle is attained. The name of the Park House firm is now Messrs. J. Bateman & Son. Bricks of excellent quality are made at Low Moor, partly out of the

shale from the old pit hills, and one cannot help wishing that some ingenious body with "levelling" tendencies would introduce a method to utilise the unsightly heaps still more.

Previous to 1844, although the male population was in great request, as we have seen, no means of employment existed for the young women and children nearer than the mills of Manchester Road. To these the poor creatures trudged in all weathers, and this, it must be borne in mind, before the beneficent provisions of the Factory Act came into operation. It is well sometimes to recur to those "hard times" in the hope that they may "come again no more," and picture the strings of clogged women and children pattering down to Mitchell's mill at five o'clock on a bleak winter's morning, returning at half-past seven at night! It was a picture that touched the heart of an Oastler and a Bull, and—to their credit be it spoken—of some nearer at home, who, lying snugly in their beds, slept not after the patter-patter had gone past without resolving to do something to shorten the journey of these feeble folk. Hence the Victoria Worsted Mill was started at Low Moor in 1844—one of the principal movers being Mr. Samuel Taylor—and was taken up by a company, in shares. This was, of course, before the principle of limited liability was originated. The scheme has been as prosperous as it deserved to be, and now the mill under its various lessees gives employment to 1200 hands. Since then another joint-stock company has built a large mill at Oakenshaw, and another on the same principle has been built by a company at Wyke. In fact, the worsted business has obtained a most substantial standing in the district, and is likely to extend.

The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway to Mirfield was opened in July, 1848; that from Halifax to Low Moor in August, 1849; and that from Low Moor to Bradford in May, 1850. A short line is now being made from Pickle Bridge to Brighouse. The company has expended above £10,000 in constructing a substantial bridge to cross the line near the Cleckheaton Junction at Low Moor, and £5000 in improved signalling apparatus. This bridge is a most substantial structure. The principal girder spans are 40 feet and 70 feet respectively, and the masonry extends to 400 feet. The bridge was opened early in 1875.

The first impression of the region of iron and coal known as Low Moor—or properly, Wibsey Low Moor—is not prepossessing. Enthusiastic travellers passing by night may pronounce the strange effect caused by the belching furnaces "grand" or "awful," as they are poetically inspired, and may liken it to Vulcan's workshop, Vesuvius, or some other place that they have never seen, but it were well that

they should not be unmindful of the saying that "distance lends enchantment." The natural effect of the perpetual smoke-canopy under which the vegetation of the district exists is to give to it a dinginess not pleasant to look upon. And yet there are some refreshing oases even at Low Moor. As to the village, even reckoned at its best, it can scarcely be called a model of arrangement.

The appearance created by the works themselves and their surroundings has been not inaptly likened to that in the vicinity of the crater of some volcano. For a long way the surface of the moor is covered with mountains of calcined shale and cinders, the refuse of eighty years, down the sides of which the burning ashes assume by night an appearance not unlike molten lava. It has been computed that the accumulation of cinders and calcined shale which surrounds the works very nearly rivals in cubic bulk the mass of the Pyramids. By day these cinder heaps afford a rich field for the poorer villagers, who may at any time be seen scaling their treacherous sides in search of unburnt fuel. Unfortunately these humble gleaners take away too little of the growing mass, and if any enterprising "extractor" on a large scale could see his way to turn the immense cinder heap to advantage, he might have it and welcome for the fetching. Not so, however, with the neighbouring mound, which is composed of the slag or "dross" from the blast furnaces. The value of this material for road making has long been ascertained, and many thousand tons of it are sold in a year for that purpose. Casting the eye across the innumerable clusters of forge chimneys, each emitting streaks of lurid flame, and onwards to the more massive piles of brickwork for the main furnaces, whose gaping throats incessantly discharge tongues of fire of that peculiarly livid hue which tells of the fearful heat raging within, the visitor already feels the strangeness of the situation; while high above all the clanging of hammers, the thud of machinery, and the hissing of steam combine to make the picture a truly awful one! And yet there are Low Moorites to whom both the sight and sound are agreeable. We have met with at least one native who "couldn't live i' Bradforth!" It is no doubt well ordered that peoples, like many specimens of vegetation, are indigenous, and thrive best on their native soils. As some explanation why the denizens of Low Moor thrive in its uncongenial atmosphere, it may be supposed that from long residence they have inhaled more "iron" into their systems than ordinary mortals.

In presenting to the reader the result of a few observations gathered at a recent visit to the vast Cyclopean establishment known as Low Moor Ironworks, it is needless to dilate on the immense advantages

which have accrued from the development of the iron and coal branches of our productive industry. The quantity of iron ore produced annually in the Low Moor mines is 60,000 tons. The chief superiority of Low Moor iron in its marketable state, consists in its strength and tenacity, and its value is shown by the high price which it commands. It is especially remarkable for the peculiarity of its granular structure and uniform and brilliant grain. This superiority, however, appears to proceed from the care and attention bestowed upon the various processes of manufacture and from the admirable character of the seam of "better bed" coal in the mines of the company. This valuable mineral attains a thickness of from eighteen to twenty-eight inches. This coal is seated upon a peculiarly hard sandstone termed "galliard." Forty yards above the better bed is the "black bed" coal, and resting upon it is a stratum in which lies embedded in irregular layers the valuable ironstone of the district. This stone has a dark brown appearance, and yields about 32 per cent. of iron. About 230 yards below the Low Moor better bed coals are the Halifax beds, which are the lowest workable coals in Yorkshire, and lie immediately above the millstone grit formation. Between the Low Moor coals and the Halifax beds are the Yorkshire flag and slate stones, which come to the surface in the townships of Northowram, Queensbury, Clayton, Thornton, Bolton Woods and Idle. The Low Moor beds crop out on the north and west, in the townships of Horton, Clayton, Shelf, Hipperholme and Clifton. Evidence of what appears to be the site of an old river is seen in the workings of the black bed, where the ironstone, which lies immediately above the coal, appears to have been washed away, and a sandstone deposited in its place. This "washout," or what is technically known as "rock roof," runs in a southerly direction from the outcrop near Beldon Hill, across Wibsey Slack, Buttershaw, and Royds Hall, to Lower Wyke, where it joins another "washout" of the same description, running in an easterly direction from the outcrop at Lightcliffe, through the townships of Wyke, Oakenshaw and Hunsworth, as far as the black bed coal has been worked. The width of the "washout" varies from 100 to say 300 yards, and in some places the coal is partly, and in others totally, washed out, and the sandstone formed in its place. Immediately above the black bed coal are found, in shales, impressions of plants, such as lepidodendra, calamites, sigillariæ, stigmariæ, ferns, &c. The nodules of ironstone generally contain fossil shells. In the basset above the better bed coal small fish bones, teeth, &c., are found in abundance. The Low Moor Company supply their works from collieries situated in the townships of North Bierley, Tong, Bowling, Shelf, Wyke, Clifton,

Hipperholme, and Cleckheaton. These pits vary in depth from 30 to 150 yards, and give employment to about 2000 persons. The mines are drained by thirteen pumping engines, and the minerals are brought to the works in waggons drawn by horses, or by means of nine stationary engines on tramways of an aggregate length of twenty-seven miles. The various tramways converging upon the works form one of the curious features of the district. There are tramways here, there, and everywhere! In addition to the above the Company have collieries at Beeston, Churwell, Osmondthorpe, and Potternewton, near Leeds, which employ about 800 persons. With those engaged at the works the Company employ about 4000 workpeople. All the better bed coal and ironstone is used exclusively for making Low Moor iron. The black bed coal is disposed of for engine fuel and domestic purposes.

The Low Moor Ironworks date from the year 1788, when a company, the owners of coal mines in Horton and elsewhere, about this time purchased the Manor of Royds Hall for £34,000 from the assignees of Edward Leeds, of Royds Hall, a bankrupt, who had died before the sale. The landed property was then worth between £800 and £900 a year, and the colliery was valued at £950 a year. This property, it would appear, was first offered in one lot at the Sun Inn, Bradford, in December, 1786. The property, however, was not sold, and it was offered again at the Sun Inn, in October, 1787, but again was not sold. In 1788, it was, as stated, sold by private treaty to the Low Moor Company. The original partners were Richard Hird, John Preston, and John Jarratt, but shortly afterwards a new partnership was formed, consisting of Hird, Preston, and Jarratt, Joseph Dawson, then a minister at Idle, John Hardy, solicitor, of Bradford, and John Loft-house, of Liverpool. The latter gentleman did not long remain a partner, and Preston and Jarratt's shares were afterwards purchased by the other partners. This estate, with what the Company already held, gave them possession of large and valuable beds of coal and ironstone, and it was proposed to erect two blast furnaces on the common land at Low Moor. Mr. Smalley, an engineer of Wigan, was engaged to erect the blast engine at the contemplated works, and as a practical man was required to put up the furnaces, he communicated with Mr. Thomas Woodcock, grandfather of the present managers of the blast furnaces and the forge department (who was then erecting two blast furnaces for Lord Balcarres at Wigan), and Mr. Woodcock prepared plans for furnaces, casting-house, &c., which were presented and approved. He accordingly removed to Low Moor to undertake the erection of the works, and on August 13, 1791, the two furnaces were blown in. Mr. Woodcock continued in the position of architect

and general manager to the Company for nearly forty-four years, dying in 1833 in his seventy-ninth year, generally esteemed. In 1854 the Bierley Ironworks were purchased by the Low Moor Company, and they have been worked ever since as a portion of their system. Since the original purchase of the Royds Hall estate the area of the works has been very largely extended, and also the field from which the coal is extracted, which now comprises miles of the adjacent country. In 1834 some new smelting works were established a little distance from the old works. At these, as well as at Bierley, only pig iron is made, all the forging and mechanical processes being executed at the old works. The Company still trade under the old name of "Hird, Dawson & Hardy," the interest of the firm being vested in the descendants of the original partners. Mr. Lamplugh Wickham Wickham is the managing director of the works, and Mr. W. N. Smyth is the resident manager.

Having detailed a few leading facts connected with the works, let us attempt a general description of the interior, merely premising that little more than a brief outline is possible. Even if anything more exhaustive were attempted, we should fail to convey to the mind of the reader anything like that vivid conception of the strange effect which is produced upon the senses of the actual spectator. Even to the latter the loud roaring of the blast furnaces, the clanking of the forge hammers, the rumbling of the rolling mills, and the sable appearance of the workmen operating upon unwieldy masses of red-hot metal, combine to create an idea akin to terror in any one unaccustomed to such scenes. Approaching the principal entrance to the works, we pass under a high three-arched bridge, which has been rendered necessary for the carriage of refuse to the cinder mountain. We are presently in sight of a row of cottages so close to the works that their back windows look into the yard; and as the forging operations are unceasingly carried on from Monday morning to Saturday night, the dwellers therein have the full benefit of the incessant clang going on. The story goes of an old lady who was so accustomed to her lord's "snore" that she failed to get a wink of sleep when that soothing lullaby was a-missing. It is no wonder that at Low Moor those living in such close proximity should feel something wanting when out of sound of the steam hammers or the rat-tat-tat of the boiler makers. In an open space opposite to these cottages, not unlike a village green minus the verdancy, huge masses of iron of many forms are suspended on blocks or are lying on the ground, among which the village urchins—the future men of iron—are amusing themselves. Not far away is an odd sight, and one not to be seen any-

where else. This is an immense heap of thirty-two pounders, highly suggestive of an awful amount of destruction, but which in their present higgledy-piggledy position are undignified and harmless enough.

Entering the works by the large gates, our interest is soon aroused by seeing a piece of ordnance towed across the yard by a traction engine, and having some remembrance of the reputation Low Moor has for turning out "big guns," we express the desire to see a monster in the process of manufacture. In response to this, however, we are informed by our courteous *cicerone* that cannons are now at a low ebb—that, in fact, they have gone out of fashion, and boiler plates and railway tyres have come in! The two or three specimens before us were only 9-pounders that were being sent away as the remnant of an order. This was significant, and, for humanity's sake, satisfactory; but as our particular wish could not be gratified, the next was easily capable of being realised. If we could not see a cannon made, we should at least witness a boiler plate in its several processes, from the raw lump of ironstone to the finished sheet. To do this involved a tramp of some distance to the stack-yard, or tramway terminus, where the raw material was deposited in large quantities. First as to the making of the coke which is used for smelting purposes. This is effected by two processes—in ovens, and by open fires. In the latter case the coal is shot down in piles, reaching across the yard, and after being pierced at short intervals by small shafts, the orifices are filled with fire, and the burning mass, after being covered over with ashes of former fires, is left to smoulder and form coke, which it becomes in about forty-eight hours. It is then slaked, and is ready for use. In the ovens only about half that time is required. To the uninitiated in these matters (for whom rather than the members of the Iron and Steel Institute we are supposed to be writing), we may state that, in the manufacture of the best iron, coal is submitted to the coking process in order thereby to expel the moisture and any portion of sulphur or other impurity that it may contain. The ironstone, previous to being used, is subjected to the weathering action of the atmosphere in order to free it from shale. It is then put into calcining kilns, and burnt or roasted with coke or "brays" (small coke). During this process it loses fully 30 per cent. in weight, but this is no loss really, as the residuum approaches by that percentage nearer to the real metal. Another important ingredient, however, there is in this stack-yard, and the only one the Company do not "grow" on their estate, namely, the limestone rock from Skipton, which, as it has an affinity for the clayey matter of the ironstone, is used to separate it from the

genuine metal. The limestone is first broken into small pieces by one of Blake's patent stone breakers, and shot down a kiln with an aperture at the bottom, from which it is drawn off as required. Although not a feature peculiar to Low Moor, no more effective economy of labour could be witnessed than is exhibited by this efficient stone-breaking machine! Having seen the various ingredients for making the future boiler plate—coke, ironstone, and limestone—prepared, we descend to a lower gallery on a level with the mouths of the kilns, and see them submitted to the smelting process. We are now close in the rear of one of those "fiery furnaces" from whose gaping throats we had previously seen the fierce white flames dart forth and expend themselves upon the empty air. The nearer prospect lends if possible additional grandeur, and it has been well described as "a noble sight to stand here and see the devastating element in such radiant glory, yet at the same time under perfect subjection." The insatiable maw of the fiery monster is being fed with alternate doses of coke, ironstone, and limestone, run up a tramway in corves by water power, and toppled over by a self-acting process into the mouth of the furnace,—for no human being dare perform that office. These corves are each carefully weighed before being sent up, the ironstone and limestone being mixed in the proportion of two-thirds iron to one-third of lime. We next descend to the base of the blast furnace, to witness the fused metal issue forth as "pig iron." Fortunately it is nearly the time for casting, which operation is performed twice a day—at half-past five a.m. and half-past three p.m. In descending, however, to the moulding shed, we are arrested by a roaring sound which can only be described as awful—so terrific and stunning is the din. This is from the blast of air which is being driven into the smelting furnace by means of powerful steam engines. No verbal description can give the faintest idea of the terrific effect produced by the rushing air from the blast engines, and here, and generally throughout the works, one could realise in all its vividness the pæan of the "Song of Steam":—

"I blow the bellows, I forge the steel
In all the shops of trade,
I hammer the ore and turn the wheel
Where my arms of strength are made."

We were naturally inquisitive as to the source of this fearful air blast, and were kindly shown the present blast engine, and also the original one erected by the engineer Smalley previously mentioned. In front of the latter is the inscription, "Emmets (Birkenshaw), founders. Ed. Smalley, engineer, 1791." The old engine is still in use on special occasions. The function of these blast engines, unscientifically

described, is that at each stroke of the piston they gather the atmospheric air and force it into an immense receiver, which in the one beside us is like an ordinary steam boiler, but the largest we ever saw, being at least ninety feet in length. From this immense reservoir air is distributed to the other furnaces, and to any part of the works where it is required. The air is driven into the smelting furnace on three sides through cylindrical tubes called tuyers, which enter about three feet above the bottom of the furnace, like the nozzles of bellows, the pressure of the blast being equal to $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. on the square inch. One could not help contrasting this powerful invention of modern engineering with the primitive process of the ancient bloomeries, when the ironfounders of that time, after throwing in the ironstone, patiently awaited the coming breeze to fan the furnace fire, and were content with the modicum of metal that trickled off!

It is now half-past three, however, and we enter the foundry to see the "liquor" run off. From an orifice at the bottom of the door of the furnace (in form not unlike an ordinary limekiln) the scoriæ or blue dross is sluggishly trickling in a steady stream into a vessel placed to receive it, surrounded by water to keep it cool. When cool, this vitrified mass is turned out in blocks such as we are accustomed to see on the highways in the neighbourhood, where it is broken for the roads. The "pig bed" in front of the furnace having been previously laid in little gullies of sand, the attendant Cyclopes—strong, swarthy specimens of humanity, not one-eyed, but all-eyed—stand watching for the molten stream as one of their number pierces the outlet of the furnace, which at each fresh charge is made up with sand. Presently the boiling, hissing metal gushes forth into the main channel prepared for it, and from thence into the lateral gullies, until that portion of the floor looks like an enormous gridiron. The burning bars are next covered with sand and left to cool, whence they are shouldered off to swell the heaps of pig iron that we see; and preparations are made for another casting. There are eight blast furnaces in connection with the works at which this process goes on.

From the foundry we proceed to the refinery and forge departments, and our first impression here is that if any one enamoured with the "dignity of labour" wishes to see real hard work in its perfection, to some such place as this he must come to witness it. In the previous processes there had been some degree of moderation and coolness exhibited on the part of the workmen, but here, not to speak disparagingly of the tall, large-boned, muscular fellows we see on all sides, they are more like demons than ordinary mortals. At the refinery, around the puddling furnaces, attending the steam hammers

and rolling mills, or manipulating the iron upon the smaller anvils, the brawny fellows are bathed in perspiration, some of them half-naked, and all more or less impregnated with soot, cinder, or metal. We no longer wonder at the hard, ingrained appearance of these stalwart workers as we are accustomed to see them when "donned up" and enjoying themselves. The refinery into which the "pig" iron is first brought to free it from its remaining impurities is not unlike an ordinary blacksmith's hearth, except that the fire is built up on the floor, with a receptacle below for running off the metal. Upon this the bars of iron are put, along with coke and "flux," and by the action of powerful air-blasts whatever clayey or superfluous matter is left in the raw material is extracted, and the purer metal is run off into shallow troughs, forming slabs, which, being remarkably brittle, are broken up for the puddling process which is to follow.

The next process is that by which the refined metal is converted into malleable iron in the puddling furnaces. This, as is well known, is perhaps the most important operation connected with the whole process of iron-making. The broken slabs as they are brought from the refinery are weighed into "heats" and given to the manager of each furnace, on whose care and assiduity while the metal is being smelted depends the future quality of the iron. The chief puddler, with long bar in hand, stirs the fused metal through an opening in the furnace, from which cavity there is presented an appearance resembling a glowing lake of fire. By continued and violent applications of strength, visible in writhing changes of attitude and contortions of the body, raking backwards and forwards, and stirring round and about, he is instrumental in producing a conversion from the state of *cast* to that of *malleable* iron. It is in the puddling furnace that the metal acquires that peculiar granular construction which it possesses, and the uniformity and brilliance of this grain depends in a great measure upon the skill and watchfulness of the puddler. When the heated metal has been sufficiently stirred it becomes a shapeless mass of white heat, like a huge snowball, and in this state is dragged out of the furnace and conveyed to the "knobblers," who have charge of the steam hammers, by which it is reduced to shapes like slabs or immense bricks, each being impressed with the stamp of the puddler from whom it came. It is wonderful to see the ease with which the knobblers reduce the glowing lumps of metal to shape, and not less wonderful to see the action and precision of the ponderous hammer itself, due in the first instance to the inventive genius of Nasmyth. We did not see the operation, but were told that one of these big hammers would crack a nut without bruising the kernel! While in the puddled lump the

metal is subjected to the closest examination, and its quality is determined in this stage by the uniformity and brilliance of the grain, premiums being offered to the workmen producing the best work. All these men are on piece-work. The puddled lumps, preparatory to being made into "slabs," are next piled up, as we had seen them in an earlier stage stacked as "pigs." The process of hammering these puddled lumps into "slabs" is another and most important operation, as by it whatever superfluous substance remains is expelled, and the compact, tough, yet pliable metal known as wrought iron is left. For this purpose the puddled lumps are thrown into another furnace, and, after being thoroughly heated, a number of them varying according to the size of the slab required are subjected to the big hammers and welded together. This process is repeated three, four, and five times, until with the alternate heating and hammering the slabs are ready for the rolling mill. The next operation is to form these slabs into plates, but again they must pass through another furnace to be reheated. The furnaces for this purpose are on Siemen's gas principle, the gas for which is made within the works, as indeed it had need to be, judging by the quantity consumed. The rolling mills present another interesting process, and the burly fellows who attend them are fitting companions to their brethren on all sides, for this process—though reduced to a minimum by the action of the mills, which are driven by powerful engines—requires both strength and dexterity. The heated slabs are brought from the glowing furnace (whose open doors disclose the whitest purest heat we have yet seen), are presented to the revolving rollers, received by other workmen on the opposite side, lifted and passed through again, and so on until they acquire the necessary uniformity and thickness, when they are stamped with the Company's seal, clipped at the edges by a powerful machine that does its work quietly but effectively, and become boiler plates! Plates twenty-six feet in length have been rolled from a single slab at these mills.

We next take a survey of this the busiest part of the works, being so unmindful as to walk over a newly-made boiler plate left on the floor to cool, and undergo an experience far from pleasant. On every side there is din and activity, and indubitable evidence of the subjection to which the elements, earth, air, fire, and water, have been brought by conquering man.

"Anon the pond'rous hammer falls,
Loud anvils ring amid the trembling walls,
Stroke follows stroke, the sparkling ingot shines,
Flows the red flag, the lengthening bar refines,
Cold waves immersed, the flowing mass congeal,
And turn to adamant the hissing steel."

The processes of making railway tyres, bar iron, bolts, &c., in the forge department, or producing castings, large and small, in the foundry, we need not describe, although each process has its interest. As is well known the making of weldless railway tyres is one of the specialties of the Low Moor Company, and for which their iron is peculiarly adapted. For this purpose, which perhaps more than any other tests the tenacity and wearing properties of iron, the greatest care is taken in securing the most faultless description of metal from the "pig" upwards, and an examination and classification is constantly going on to this end. Out-of-doors the clanging din of hammers is heard as red-hot bolts are being driven into steam boilers, thus turning to useful purpose some of those plates we had seen in the different processes of manufacture. Close by we are shown some huge cauldrons for sugar mills, for the West Indies ; huge cylinders, engine beams, and other heavy work in more or less completeness of manufacture. For specimens of the strength and pliability of the wrought iron produced at these works we look into an office in which is a table, itself presenting some of the various qualities and uses to which the iron can be put—the top a polished boiler plate, the legs twisted and knotted to show the pliability of the iron. Upon the table, among other specimens of a like character, there is what is considered a *chef d'œuvre* in the way of forged metal. This was originally a piece of bar iron, which has been hammered, punctured, twisted, scooped, and made to undergo numerous contortions to show its strength and elasticity. In the same room is a case containing specimens of the coal and ironstone strata found in the Company's estate. Before leaving we take a peep into the gun model room, where there are some enormous specimens of ordnance, evidently objects of pride to the attendant, who, although his occupation has for the time gone, dilates with some satisfaction on the monsters he has sent off, especially during the busy "Sebastopol times." Another feature not previously mentioned about the works is the extensive water system of the Company, a vast amount of the aqueous element being required in the process. As the natural supply is not very considerable, numerous reservoirs to collect and economise the water are distributed about the immediate district.

The long and successful history of Low Moor Ironworks it is beyond our province to describe. Concerned in its management have been some men of note, among whom it is not invidious to single out the names of Joseph Dawson, C. H. Dawson, John Hardy, Henry Wickham, and Charles Hardy, for present mention. All these have passed away, and their places and interests have been succeeded to by men of like mould and energy. Mr. Joseph Dawson, one of the

original partners, we have alluded to under the head of Royds Hall, which was long his residence. His monument is the Low Moor Works, which largely owe their origin and successful working to his energy. He was succeeded by his son, Mr. C. H. Dawson, who, after a long residence there, died at Royds Hall, June 4, 1865, aged eighty-five.

The name of the Hardy family, so long connected with Low Moor and its giant works, is familiar in every household in the district. Dating from the end of last century, when the elder Hardy ventured upon what has proved to be so successful a speculation, the succeeding members of the family have preserved an interest in the locality which will not soon be forgotten. Mr. John Hardy, sen., one of the original partners, was an attorney practising in Bradford, and lived at one time at the bottom of Great Horton Road. The late Mr. Samuel Hailstone served his articles with him, and afterwards was taken into partnership. The basement of Mr. Hardy's house was used as the office, but it must be remembered that from this semi-subterranean abode there was a bright look-out across the clear stream up the pleasant slopes towards Westgate. In this house the late John Hardy, Esq., who succeeded to his father's interest in the Low Moor Works, was born in 1773. Mr. Hardy was brought up to the bar, and became a leading barrister at sessions and assizes. Being appointed Recorder of Leeds, he removed his family to the neighbourhood of that town, where he resided until he gave up the recordership, after having held that position for twenty-seven years, when he removed to Heath Hall, near Wakefield. After the passing of the Reform Bill in 1832, by which Bradford became enfranchised, Mr. Hardy was returned in company with Mr. E. C. Lister, and also at the next election in 1835. In 1837, however, he was defeated by Mr. Busfield, but he regained the seat in 1841, and held it until 1847, when he retired from public life. In private life Mr. Hardy was distinguished for his social virtues, piety, and the munificence of his gifts towards church extension. About 1849 he purchased the Dunstall Hall estate, in Staffordshire, where he resided during the last years of his life, and where he died in September, 1855, at the advanced age of eighty-two. Mr. Hardy married Isabel, daughter of Mr. Richard Gathorne, of Kirkby Lonsdale, by whom he had a family of twelve children, of whom three were sons, viz., Mr. John Hardy, M.P. for Dartmouth, the late Mr. Charles Hardy, and the Right Hon. Gathorne Hardy, M.P., Secretary-at-War. Mr. Charles Hardy for a long period took a prominent part in the management of the works, and resided at Odsal House. He died universally lamented at Chilham Castle, Kent, on March 16, 1867, aged 54. Of his private benevolence and public worth, it is scarcely possible to speak too

highly. In Church matters, and in all the educational institutions connected with the Church in the vicinity of Low Moor, he took a prominent and active part. Whatever company might be at Odsal House, Mr. Hardy was in his class Sunday after Sunday, either at the Company's school or the little building at Chapel Fold, Wibsey. His character might be summed up in a single line,

"One who loved his fellow-man."

If James, the historian, be correct, the late Mr. Henry Wickham Wickham's lineage was not illustrious only, but of world-wide fame, as he traces the family back to the William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester, who founded New College, Oxford, in the fourteenth century. There is no doubt that for two centuries past the family has occupied a position of distinction in the county of York. Mr. Wickham's father was the Rev. Lamplugh Wickham Hird, which latter name he had assumed on his marriage with the daughter of Mr. Richard Hird, of Rawdon. Mr. Wickham also took the name of Hird, but resumed his paternal name of Wickham on the death of his father. Mr. Wickham was born in 1800, and after being educated at Oxford, he was called upon, owing to the success of the increasing works with which his father was connected at Low Moor, to devote himself to metallurgy rather than to literature, and for some years he plodded on steadily in the counting-house or superintended the works. In 1852 he was returned M.P. for Bradford by a majority of six votes over Colonel Thompson, and continued to sit for the borough till 1867, when he died at Leamington in September of that year.

The principal managing partner of the works is now Mr. Lamplugh Wickham Wickham, brother of the late member, who resides at Chestnut Grove, near Tadcaster. For nearly half a century he has taken a very active interest in the works.

There are few places where venerable workpeople are to be found in such abundance as at Low Moor Works. We had an instance pointed out of two patriarchs, whose united term of service reached to above 140 years, and numerous instances occur of half-century men. One of these patriarchs is James Parkinson, a much-respected workman at Low Moor, who has little more than a year to live before completing eighty years of uninterrupted service for the Low Moor Company. The brave old man might long since have retired on a pension; but, given his fortnight at Blackpool (a favourite resort with Low Moorites), and "he'd rayther addle his wage." James Parkinson is also a noted rhymster—a sort of "poet laureate" of passing events. Scarcely anything out of the common way happens at Low Moor but

James must render it into verse, some of it certainly of terribly long measure, but not wanting in humour.

Sam Laycock, the old postman, is still living at Low Moor, having retired from that post, with a handsome pension, in 1869. This veteran is about eighty years of age. During his thirty-eight years of active duty he attended the Bradford Post Office twice a day, with scarcely an intermission. It is supposed that during that time he walked 94,848 miles.

Bierley gives the name to the pleasant hill slopes rising from Low Moor towards Bradford, and bounded by the old township limits of Bolling. It is skirted towards Tong by the newly-formed district called Tong Street, and eastward by Hunsworth. Although Bierley is only one, and the least populous, section of the somewhat comprehensive district known as North Bierley, it alone bears the old township name, and doubtless with propriety, as it has evidently from its position and antecedents an ancient title to that name. The most populous portion of it is now about Bierley Lane, near which is Bierley Hall, but there are besides Woodhouse Hill and Woodlands, the latter now becoming increasingly populous. The mention of these names gives occasion for inquiry whether the district might not at some time have presented a far more sylvan aspect than at present. Such clearly definable names as those just quoted are seldom without meaning, and in this case it is not improbable that the slopes of the hill, especially about Upper and Lower Woodlands, were once bountifully covered with forest trees. If, indeed, as Dr. Whitaker has it, the manufacture of iron was carried on by the Romans at North Bierley (and both Dr. Richardson and the late Rev. Joshua Fawcett discovered some ancient remains of smelting near Bierley Hall), the inference would be that wood was plentiful, as the process was effected solely by the aid of charcoal. Now nearly all the male inhabitants are employed in mining, or at the ironworks, the women and children working at the neighbouring worsted mills. In olden times woollen cloth was made by hand, and subsequently worsted, in almost every farm-house at Woodhouse Hill and Bierley.

In entering upon the district now under notice, we meet with fresh owners of the soil, the principal one being the Richardson family. It will not be necessary to go through the pedigree of this family, albeit from their intermarriage with other substantial families in the neighbourhood, many old and some extinct names would transpire. The first representative of the family seems to have been Nicholas Richardson, who came from the county of Durham, and

bought estates at Tong, North Bierley, and Woodhall, near Calverley. He died in 1616, and was succeeded by his son Richard, who was born in 1576. Richard left a son William, who married a sister of the great antiquary, William Hopkinson, whose extensive collection relating to the topography of Yorkshire is well known. William Richardson died without issue, and was succeeded by his brother Richard, who left a son William, the father of the celebrated Dr. Richardson. The doctor was born at Bierley Hall in 1663, and was twice married—first to Sarah, daughter and heiress of John Crosley, of Halifax and Crosley Hall, Bradford (by whom he had no issue), and next to Dorothy, daughter of Henry Curre, Esq., of Kildwick, and had by her twelve children, seven of whom outlived him. He died in 1741, aged seventy-seven, leaving his estates to his son Richard, who spent much personal labour and expense in improving the Bierley property. After Richard's death in 1781, the estates descended through the Richardsons and Currens to Miss Frances Mary Richardson Curre, who died in 1861, having held the estates for the long period of seventy-six years. At her death the three properties of Gargrave, Kildwick, and Bierley united in Sir Mathew Wilson, her half-brother. Sir Mathew, who was born in 1802, has only one son, Mathew Wharton, who lives at Abingdon Manor, Cirencester. The election in 1873 of Sir Mathew Wilson as the colleague of Lord Frederick Cavendish for the North-West Riding, and the honour of a baronetcy which was conferred upon him, are recent occurrences. Sir Mathew, in addition to being lord of the manor of Bierley and Toftshaw, has also the manor of Cleckheaton, which includes the hamlets of Scholes and Oakenshaw. As a considerate landlord, he is only following in the steps of the lady who preceded him, and, indeed, the kindness of the Richardsons generally was proverbial. Some of the farms have been in the tenancy of members of the same family for nearly 300 years. For the last twenty-three years the Wilson estates at Bierley, Cleckheaton, Wyke, &c., have been under the supervision of Mr. Wm. Cowgill, of Bradford, and by the process of development which he has adopted in opening out and disposing of plots, the value of the estate has probably been trebled.

In connection with Bierley, the celebrated Richard Richardson, M.D., deserves special mention. At the time that he lived the neighbourhood of Bradford could not boast many old-established families of gentry. Indeed, at that period the Rookes and Richardson families would divide the honour between them so far as North Bierley was concerned, and of the two the father of Dr. Richardson alone was registered as entitled to bear arms and crest. It is notable that in Bradford

not one "gentleman" existed. Its inhabitants then (and since) were too wholly engrossed in trade to make great pretensions to gentility. Most of the gentry in the neighbourhood of Bradford had obtained their wealth from the making of cloth and the farming of land. Among this community Dr. Richardson was brought up, but he early distinguished himself by his talents for learning. His father dying when he was four years old, he and two others were left to the care of his mother, one of the Saviles of Halifax, who seems to have bestowed much care upon the training of her children, and it is pleasing to add that her labours were neither unrewarded nor forgotten by her eldest son. So reciprocal was their affection and regard that his mother continued to live with him at Bierley Hall after he was twice married, and she died under his roof.

Dr. Richardson was educated at the Bradford Grammar School, and from thence went to University College, Oxford. Being intended for the medical profession he prosecuted his studies at Leyden for about three years, during which time he lodged in the house of Paul Herrmann, the celebrated botanical professor, and there obtained that taste which led him to the preparation of the exhaustive catalogue of plants which is now in the possession of Ed. Hailstone, Esq., in his own handwriting. On his return from Leyden he obtained at Oxford his degree of M.D., and returned to Bierley Hall, where he indulged his various tastes at ease and leisure. His skill in medicine was sound and extensive, and at all times readily and gratuitously exercised for the benefit of the poor. In 1712 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, and enjoyed the friendship of Dillenius, Ray, and others famed in the world of science, and of Hearne, Thoresby, Marmaduke Fothergill, Drake, and others amongst antiquarians and scholars. For a long period of his life he lived in the closest friendship with the President of the Royal Society, Sir Hans Sloane. After a long life spent in enjoyment and usefulness, Dr. Richardson died at Bierley on April 21, 1741, and was buried at White Chapel, Cleckheaton. A handsome monument to his memory graces the chapel.

Although Dr. Richardson never published on his own account, some idea may be formed of the extensive communication he carried on with scientific men generally from the voluminous correspondence which he left, and from which, under the fostering care of Miss Currer, a selection has been published. The originals fill twelve folio volumes. A mere enumeration even of Dr. Richardson's correspondents it would be tedious to give, but the circle comprised Linnæus, Sir Hans Sloane, the Earl of Derby, Dr. Sherard, Boerhaave, Mr. Thoresby, Dr. Dillenius, Mr. Hearne, and other noted botanists and antiquarians.

Dr. Richardson's extensive catalogue of plants has been alluded to. This was representative of the vast collection within his own garden at Bierley. The cultivation seems to have been continued in his son's time, and the Bierley Gardens were only equalled in the North by those at Orford, near Liverpool. The correspondence abundantly testifies to the courtesy of floristry in that day, and also shows the difficulties which then existed in transmitting specimens. In 1696 Dr. Uvedale, one of his London correspondents, sends Dr. Richardson a box of "July-flowers" (gilliflowers) by the "Bradford carrier." In return, Dr. Richardson transmits coal plants and many other living specimens of vegetation, by "John Atkinson, who stops at the White Horse, Cripplegate." Another London correspondent sends the doctor three pounds of Bohea tea, for which he paid twelve shillings a pound, "which is three shillings a pound less than it could be bought for in the shops." Sir Hans Sloane and others acknowledge presents of moor-fowl from Bierley, and send rare seeds, &c. A kind of mutual friend in London, to whom packages were addressed both by Dr. Richardson and his correspondents, was Mr. Benjamin Bartlett. He was a surgeon and much acquainted with coins, &c. His father, of the same name, was also a friend of Dr. Richardson, and was a surgeon at Bradford. With him the celebrated Dr. Fothergill served his apprenticeship. Mr. Bartlett lived at the White House, Stott Hill, behind the Ring o' Bells Inn. The property of the Bartletts descended to a person named Bartlett Gurney, one of the family of Gurney, of Norfolk.

Another resident of Bierley Hall, of whom a lengthy notice might be written, was Miss Frances Richardson Currer, whose relationship to Dr. Richardson has already been recorded. This lady seemed to inherit all the taste of the former family, having collected a very large and valuable library, together with a considerable quantity of prints, shells, and fossils, in addition to what were collected by her grandfather and great uncle. Her library consisted of 20,000 volumes, and in 1833, Mr. C. J. Stewart, of London, prepared a catalogue of it, which, when printed, occupied 500 pages. Miss Currer, however, did not collect books for the mere purpose of possessing them, but she was intimately acquainted with their contents, and knew the position of every volume on her shelves. At her death, in 1861, many valuable books were sold in London. Miss Currer effected many alterations at Bierley during her residence there. Among others, she diverted the public road, and made the existing carriage road.

Bierley Hall, the residence for so long a period of a family uniting in successive generations inestimable social qualities with scientific

and literary attainments, was built in 1636, by the father of Dr. Richardson. It has, however, undergone considerable alteration within the last 130 years, having been new fronted with stone in the Italian style of architecture, quite different from the original design. The west wing matches the character of the old hall, and there are traces at the east end of a corresponding wing having been removed. An entrance porch has apparently not been long added, admitting to a capacious vestibule, which, like the rest of the interior, is admirably preserved by the present tenant, Mr. Johnson. The vestibule, dining-room, and staircase (the latter of massive proportions) are all of splendid old oak, and the same prevails in the bed and dressing-rooms. The dining-room, especially, with the original carved wainscoting, mantel-piece, and corresponding furniture, affords at a glance an admirable example of an English gentleman's entertaining room—"one of the olden time." Dr. Richardson's own room, with the writing-desk and cabinet he used, are also carefully preserved. There are besides several old family paintings, antique cabinets, and a piece of tapestry from Jerusalem, a present to Dr. Richardson from Sir Hans Sloane. Many of the pictures which formerly graced the interior were collected by the second Dr. Richardson, who also made valuable additions to his father's library. Three small marble slabs, containing inscriptions to the memory of some Romans of former days, may be seen near the entrance porch. What may be the dates of these slabs and whence they came, the present owners of Bierley Hall have no knowledge.

In front of the hall stands a majestic Cedar of Lebanon, which was sent as a seedling to Dr. Richardson by his friend Sir Hans Sloane. This is perhaps the oldest and largest Cedar of Lebanon in the kingdom. Of late years the ungenial atmosphere has begun to tell seriously upon the dark evergreen foliage, but it is still a tree of mark among its fellows. The time at which it arrived as a young plant is not known, but it would be probably about the year 1705. At first the doctor kept it in his greenhouse, but observing that whatever strength it gained during summer was lost during the winter, he resolved to risk it outside, and there its noble and graceful form has stood ever since. The tree was measured in 1812, when at some distance from the ground the circumference of the trunk was 12ft. 8in. At a recent measurement we found the circumference to be 14ft. 8in. The height is about 18 yards. It deserves notice that the second hot-house erected in England was built at Bierley for Dr. Richardson, and by the same workmen who erected the first at Orford, near Liverpool.

Adjoining the hall Dr. Richard Richardson (the son) did much to embellish the grounds by laying out artificial ponds, and by construct-

ing a Druidical circle or temple. He also constructed a subterranean cave, the entrance to which is formed by rocks piled on rocks. There is a weird seclusion about this spot which is almost delusive, remembering its proximity to busy Bradford. All the masses of stone forming the grotto, untouched by the chisel, were brought from the extremity of Wibsey Slack. Most of the plantations surrounding the fish ponds were made by the first Dr. Richardson.

In noticing a few items contained in the Richardson Correspondence, mention was made of presents of moor-fowl from Bierley. In the Autobiography of Thomas Wright, of Birkenshaw, we find game freely spoken of at Bierley in the time of the second Dr. Richardson. During the earlier years of Thomas Wright, probably about 1755, he lived with a relation, William Brogden, at North Bierley. While there he says he "used to go out shooting two or three times a week during the winter with John Jobson, John Lumby, Squire Booth, and James Speight to kill game for Dr. Richardson. After rambling through the fields, woods, and groves all day we used to retire to the doctor's at night, where a supper was provided for us, and as much ale as we chose to drink, paying us for the game after the rate of sixpence for a woodcock, fourpence for a partridge, threepence for a snipe, and twopence for a judcock!" Bierley Hall was for some time tenanted by the present Sir Mathew Wilson, afterwards by Mr. Henry Leah, next by Mr. T. G. Clayton and Mr. W. M. Selwyn, and it is now occupied by Mr. Charles S. Johnson, wine merchant.

Besides the mansion at Bierley the Richardson family have had residences at Woodhall, Newhall, Birkshall, and High Fernley. The one called Newhall is situate in Rooley Lane, and although it has long succumbed to the fate of similar buildings, by being divided into cottages, it is still a grand old place. Few persons could look upon its massive proportions without a feeling of regret that so noble an example of the taste of a past squirearchy had not fallen into more appreciative hands. The principal edifice consists of two wings and a centre, and is built of large blocks of stone. Richard Richardson, the next brother of William, the father of Dr. Richardson, lived at Newhall. He was born in 1635, and died in 1699. A third brother, John, built Birkshall in Bowling, and became one of the lords of the manor of Bradford. He married a sister of Archbishop Sharp. Newhall is just within the township of Bowling, and several gifts of land were made in this township to Kirkstall Abbey in its palmy days. It would appear from the following that some land at Newhall was granted:—"On the 10th September, 1444, 22nd Henry VI., William de Mirfield and William Wyk quit-claimed all their right in one messuage and all the

lands the monks held in Newhall, in the hamlet of Bolling, near Bradford." "John, son of Robert de Newhall, granted a carriage road on the south field here to the monks, and to such as held the manor of them." Some of the land in Bowling given to Kirkstall Abbey was called Burnt Field. It is still called Burnet Field. Newhall and the adjoining land, of which there is a large breadth stretching towards Woodhouse Hill, are leased by Sir Mathew Wilson to the Low Moor Company, by whom the land is most excellently farmed.

Situate almost at the extremity of the township boundary, and near the junction of Bierley and Rooley Lanes, is Bierley Chapel, originally built in 1766 by Richard, the son of Dr. Richardson, as a private chapel for himself and tenants. The chapel is dedicated to St. John. Although previously licensed, it was not consecrated until 1824, and it remained in one sense a private chapel until 1864, when a district was assigned to it, and an ecclesiastical parish formed. Previous to its erection the Richardsons had (with the Rookes) been benefactors of Wibsey Chapel, and to improve the means of communication Richard Richardson constructed a new road from Bierley Hall to Wibsey Chapel. Owing to some disagreement, however, between the families, the road (which had not been quite completed) was abandoned, and Bierley Chapel was built instead. This chapel is a substantial edifice in the Grecian style of architecture, and around it is growing up a large population such as its founder could never have contemplated. There is an excellent parsonage adjoining. The living has been several times augmented by the patron's family, and is now valued at £300. The gift is in the hands of trustees.

The Rev. James Stillingleet (a grandson of the celebrated bishop) was the first minister. He was a powerful preacher, and was Calvinistic in his opinions. Great numbers went constantly from Bradford to hear him during the five years he continued at Bierley. He afterwards became vicar of Hotham, and died there in 1826, aged eighty-six. There have been many ministers since him, the Rev. G. S. Bull holding the living from 1826 to 1839. This gentleman was a native of Suffolk, and as a young man he was remarkable for his success as a Sunday school teacher. He was afterwards a missionary abroad. It was while pastor at the village of Hanging Heaton, near Dewsbury, that he became familiar with the horrors of unregulated factory labour, and in after life he devoted a great portion of his energies, in conjunction with Sadler, Oastler, and Feilden, to bring about a remedy by means of the Ten Hours Factory Bill. He was long in familiar correspondence with the Earl of Shaftesbury, whom, in fact, he instructed on the factory question. From Bierley he removed to St. James's

Church, Bradford, and was subsequently rector of St. Thomas's, Birmingham. The rev. gentleman died August 22, 1865. Mr. Bull was succeeded at Bierley by the Rev. John Barber, and the living is now held by the Rev. C. W. N. Hyne, who was instituted in 1868.

The National Schools at Bierley were opened in February, 1870, the site having been given by Sir Mathew Wilson, and the principal portion, affording accommodation for 248 scholars, was erected at a cost of £1716. The infants' school, &c., accommodating 106 scholars, was afterwards added, costing in the whole (including site) £2247, affording accommodation for 354 scholars. Previously to the erection of these schools there was a room, built in 1819, which was for many years the only one in the neighbourhood, and in it many who are now past middle age received their religious instruction. The Wesleyan Reformers have a chapel in Bierley, built in 1855, and a Sunday school.

At Woodlands there has recently been erected a mission chapel, which was opened on September 28, 1873. The cost was about £1200. It is intended to form an ecclesiastical district for Woodlands, when it is hoped that a church may be built, and the present building used as a school.

The Bierley Ironworks were commenced by Nathaniel Aked, of Bradford, about 1810; but shortly afterwards the plant and interest in the forty-six years' lease of the minerals obtained from Miss Currer were purchased by Mr. James Marshall, ironmonger, of Kirkgate, Bradford, who took into partnership Mr. Henry Leah, then cashier at Bowling Ironworks. Subsequently Mr. Joseph Marshall, son of the senior partner, and Mr. T. G. Clayton entered the firm, and the business was considerably extended. Mr. Leah was a native of Emley, near Wakefield, and was of humble origin, but by his business capacity he acquired a good position, and realised a handsome fortune. He died at Leamington in 1846, aged seventy-three. Among the managers at Bierley, whose long terms of service entitle them to mention, are Messrs. Samuel Clough and Ebenezer Sargent, the latter of whom still holds a responsible position at the Low Moor Works. In 1854, the Bierley works were purchased by the Low Moor Company, who obtained a fresh lease of the mineral rights, &c., and the works are now absorbed in their system. These works, now conducted on an extensive scale, are confined solely to the manufacture of pig iron, which, being the produce of the same ore, is of equal quality to that manufactured at the adjoining works at Low Moor.

The pleasant aspect of Bierley Lane, as it used to be before the iron and coal era, is plainly indicated by the clusters of substantial

houses still remaining, some of them with little external alteration. Coming to comparatively recent times, two or three families of local repute must be mentioned. One of these was the Butlers, of whom three brothers, Henry, Charles, and George, composed the old stock. Henry lived at Hagg Hall, and was a noted and enthusiastic Methodist. He travelled long journeys to lovefeasts and revival meetings in company with Ann Cutler and the Rev. Wm. Bramall, the latter preaching occasionally in Bierley at old Abraham Holgate's, near to the Manor House. The descendants of the Butlers live yet at Low Woodlands. Richard Hardy lived at Upper Woodlands Farm, and built the old mill now standing empty and ruinous in the valley. It was first used as a maltkiln, but was afterwards converted into a worsted mill for his two sons. Previous to coming to Woodlands, Richard Hardy lived at Rooley Hall. A family named Brook owned the land on which the maltkiln was built previous to Hardy purchasing it. At a place just below Woodlands Farm we come to Dyehouse Fold, or Bateman's Clough, so called from a branch of that family having occupied it many years ago. The Batemans are a most numerous and substantial family in the neighbourhoods of Wyke, Oakenshaw, and North Bierley, and are traceable 200 years back. Daniel Bateman, who lived at Dyehouse Fold, manufactured a material called "swan-down," and was besides a dyer. He had three sons—Jonas, John, and William. Jonas kept the Old White Bear at Oakenshaw. John and William entered into business about 1810 at Bailiffe Bridge as dyers and manufacturers of bombazines and worsted goods, and invented there the cross-dyeing process in which subsequently the late Mr. S. Smith and others have been so successful. John lived at Lower Wyke Moravian settlement, and was the organist there. His eldest son, Mr. J. F. Bateman, is the eminent civil engineer, of Westminster. William lived at Snake Hill, near Brighouse, but afterwards removed to Chelsea. Mr. Daniel Bateman, of Dyehouse Fold, had a brother, from whom Mr. D. Bateman, of Folly Hall, Wibsey, is descended. The Batemans of Park House, Low Moor, are from the same stock.

Allusion has been made to Woodhouse Hill, a pleasant knoll not far from Bierley Hall. We would fain have found here traces of a house of some historic note, but the quest was not entirely satisfactory. There is scarcely any name associated with the early history of Bradford of greater interest than that of the Sharps of Horton. Of this family sprung Archbishop Sharp, and his father lived and was the owner of an estate at Woodhouse. He died in 1623, leaving the estate to his son James, who was the progenitor of the Sharps of Gildersome. The property at Woodhouse is now in the possession of

Sir M. Wilson as the successor to the Richardsons, and is leased to the Low Moor Company, but it appears that one portion, on which the substantial house occupied by Mr. J. L. Clough stands, was purchased about sixty years ago for the late Miss Curren by the late Mr. Mathew Wilson, from a person named George Naylor. Although we can carry the inference no farther, it is probable that this was part of Sharp's estate. Mr. Naylor was a retired tobacconist from Bradford. The Rev. Mr. Naylor, his brother, was minister at Wibsey (Holy Trinity) Chapel, and resided at Woodhouse Hill. The present house was rebuilt by Naylor in 1782, partly from the material of an older building close by, which was of some pretensions. Mr. Clough's family have occupied the house above half a century. The father of Mr. J. L. Clough, the present occupant, named Samuel, was connected with the Bierley Ironworks about forty years. He was originally apprenticed with William Bateman, cardmaker, of Low Moor, and came from Cleckheaton. His wife (whose maiden name was Worsnop) was a granddaughter of the Betty Firth mentioned in our former account of Low Moor. Mr. Samuel Clough and his wife were about the same age, having been born respectively on January 14th and February 14th, 1782. They died a few years back of old age, and were buried together on the same day at Low Moor Wesleyan Chapel, with which they had been connected from early life. Several old houses have been pulled down and rebuilt on Woodhouse Hill, among them an antique place inhabited by a man named Timothy Knowles, a strong Calvinistic Baptist. There are others adjoining of very ancient dates. The houses are all tenanted by workmen of the Low Moor Company, some of whom cannot be considered heavily rented. Cottages "chamber-height" are let for sevenpence a week!

Before leaving North Bierley we must briefly summarise a few matters common to the whole township. In 1764, we find that Bowling was joined to North Bierley in poor's affairs, and in that year, there being a dispute between the two places as to the management of the workhouse, it was agreed to have a joint committee, the following being appointed:—For North Bierley—Edward Leeds, Richard Richardson, Joseph Pollard, sen., Joseph Pollard, jun., John Hopkinson, Edward Waddington, and Thomas Barraclough. For Bowling—Abraham Balme, John Swaine, Joseph Taylor, and Thomas Bolton. In May, 1766, the township of Wyke was taken into partnership, by the following agreement:—"It is agreed that the towns of North Bierley, Bowling, and Wyke, shall join in maintaining the poor and paying the debts for making the Workhouse at Wibsey convenient; also the rent for the farm and the wages for the master and dame, &c."

Each town was to clothe its own poor, and the expenses of maintenance in the workhouse were to be apportioned to the three places separately. In 1800 the population of North Bierley was considerably increased, owing of course to the opening of the ironworks at Low Moor. The township had then been severed from Wyke and Bowling, and was known as East End and West End. In 1810 the poor-rate was 7s. in the pound. The names most prominent were at that period those of Daniel Bateman, Robert Walker, James Lee, and Joshua Kaye; those of Jarratt, Dawson, and Field occasionally appearing in town's books. In 1819 the poor-rate rose to 8s. in the pound, and there was a church-rate of 1s. 6d., realising together £1648. The amount raised last year on a poor-rate of 2s. in the pound, and an assessable value of £35,277, was £3613. The following figures show the increase of population during the present century :—In 1801 the population was 3820; in 1811, 4766; in 1831, 7254; in 1851, 11,710; in 1861, 12,500; and the population may now be estimated at 16,000. Mr. Samson Bairstow held the office of assistant-overseer until recently, when he retired after twenty years' service.

The Local Government Act was adopted in 1865. The present members of the Board are, for the North Ward—Mr. Matthew Wright (chairman), Mr. James Bottomley, and Mr. Wm. Lister; South Ward—Mr. J. M. Woodcock, Mr. Thomas Wilson, Dr. Whitteron, Mr. Thos. Taylor, and Mr. E. Briggs; East Ward—Mr. J. L. Clough, Mr. Parkinson, and Mr. Michael M. Midgley. Clerk, Mr. S. Wright, solicitor; medical officer, Mr. W. F. Rawson, of Low Moor. The chief difficulty the Board have had to contend with has been the long legacy of past neglect left to them, and the previous absence of restraint in building regulations, especially in connection with the waste lands. The drainage of the township has also been undertaken entirely by the new Board, and is being carried on vigorously. Mr. James Lumley, C.E., is the engineer of the works. The Waterworks, established in 1865 by a limited company, were in 1875 purchased by the Local Board for £18,000 (for which borrowing powers were obtained), and it is proposed to borrow £6000 for improving the causeways, and a further sum for lighting and sewerage. A petition has also been presented to the Local Government Board to allow the Board to take a portion of the Wyke district for sewerage purposes.

The North Bierley Gas Company was established in 1861 on the limited principle, with a capital of £10,000. Up to the present time about £37,000 has been laid out. The district embraced by the company includes Wibsey, Buttershaw, Low Moor, Bierley, Oakenshaw, Scholes, Wyke, and Shelf.

Closely connected with Low Moor, both by its immediate proximity and native industry, is Wyke. It is a place of ancient standing, although we fail to find anything beyond the briefest mention of it in modern histories. In Domesday Book it is called Wiche (a village). Wyke was in that old record surveyed as part of the parish of Bradford. It is now a township in the parish of Birstal, and includes a portion of Bailiffe Bridge, Upper and Lower Wyke, Wyke Common, Storr Hill, and New Roadside. It is intersected by the Whitehall Road, which runs from Leeds to Hipperholme for Halifax, and by the Bradford and Huddersfield Road, the former of which was constructed in 1832. The latter road, which was made in 1824, was in October last freed from toll-bars along its whole length. Wyke is not unfavourably situated. In the vicinity of Westfield, and especially on the slopes of the hill towards Bailiffe Bridge, the prospect is pleasantly diversified, even admitting the obtrusion here and there of a pit shaft, with its surrounding mound of unpicturesque refuse. About this portion of the township the tenements are only thinly scattered, and are generally small farmsteads and detached dwellings. It is about Wyke Common, and towards that portion called New Roadside, that the greatest increase has taken place in working-class dwellings.

Wyke was one of the manors taken from its former Saxon owners, Stainulf and Westre, and handed over by the Conqueror to Ilbert Lacy, the Norman, in 1067. This Stainulf must have been a substantial Saxon, and a great sufferer from the devastations of the Conqueror, as we find him, in addition to Wyke, holding lands at Bierley, Tong, Batley, and Pudsey, most of which are afterwards described as "waste." From 1067 to 1310 the Lacies (then Earls of Lincoln) held the manor, along with their other vast possessions, the landholders holding their tenures from them, and rendering yearly service for the same. Thus, in 1311, we find from an inquisition taken at the death of the Earl of Lincoln, that the "village of Wike" paid for "work done in autumn from ancient times" the sum of 2s. To arrive at the annual worth of the Earl's interest in Wyke at that time, the sum of 2s. must be multiplied probably by twenty to bring it to the present value of money. At that time, too, it must be remembered wheat was only 6s. a quarter, a cow could be bought for 12s. 6d., a fat pig for 3s. 4d., and a military horse for 13s. 4d., but a Bible cost £33. Labourers' wages were 1½d. a day, and an English slave and his family sold for 13s. 4d. By Kirkby's Inquest, taken in 1277, it appears that the Abbot of Kirkstall had lordship at Wyke, although we imagine the revenue derived from it would not bring much grist to the monastic mill.

For two hundred years Wyke, as a "ville" in the manor of Bradford, passed to the Earls of Lancaster, and was next held by the Crown, until it was sold as parcel of the manor of Bradford to the City of London in 1629, the reason for this being that James I. at his death owed to the City of London a large sum of money, and his son Charles, shortly after his accession, sold to the City in repayment nearly the whole of the Crown lands, reserving fee farm rents upon them. The Saviles of Thornhill were for many generations stewards of the manor under the Crown, and held lands in Wyke and Tong of considerable extent, amounting probably in Wyke to 300 acres, or a third part of the township. Sir Henry Savile, of Thornhill, in 1548 held lands at Wyke, out of which he paid an annual rent of £5 6s. 8d. to a chantry at Elland. The next lords of the manor of which we have any record were named Empson or Empsall, and they resided at the old Manor House. To the Empsalls succeeded Mr. Mayer, of Northowram Hall, from whom, through marriage with his daughter, it passed to Mr. Thomas Carvick.

For a long course of years little progress was made either in regard to material prosperity or social advancement. It was reserved to the intuition of the present century to thoroughly develope the resources lying within the township, and the coal and ironstone alone which it has yielded have proved a veritable "mine of wealth" to all concerned. In 1801 the population of the township was returned at 985. In 1831 it was 1918; it is now about 5000. The rateable value has increased from £1675 in 1815 to £15,550 in 1875.

In 1813 an Enclosure Act for the unenclosed lands of Wyke was passed. The principal owners of the land at that time were Charles Mayer, of Northowram (heir to John Mayer, of York), lord of the manor, Miss Frances Richardson Currer, of Bierley Hall, and William Wainman, of Carrhead. An enclosure of the common lands amounting to about 200 acres was made in 1816. In 1834 the Low Moor Company acquired leases of ninety years to work the minerals under the estates of Mr. Thomas Carvick, then lord of the manor, and in 1849 his portion of the estate was sold by auction, when the Low Moor Company purchased largely. In 1834 the Company also acquired similar leases of ninety years to work the minerals under Miss Currer's property, and concurrently they obtained short renewable leases from Mr. Wm. Wainman, he being unable, owing to the strict disposition of his property, to grant leases for longer terms. In 1856, however, an Act was obtained to free the Wainman estate from these encumbrances. The land is now passing into various hands, Mr. W. B. Wainman and Sir Mathew Wilson being free sellers.

In May, 1766, Wyke was joined to Bowling and North Bierley in parochial affairs, but the partnership did not last many years. In 1778 Michael Ambler was overseer of the poor, and other town's officers of that period were Joseph Butterworth, David Drake, James Pearson, and William Sugden. The churchwarden for the same period was Nathan Sharp. We also find the names of James Butterworth, Samuel Winpenny, William Brooke, John Firth, Thos. Firth, &c. A memorandum taken from an old town's book, dated about 1782, beats our comprehension. It runs thus :—"Every poor parson shall pay 1s. 6d. compision and every cart shall go 4 days to the stathe duty and a cart or no cart in proposon." The next memorandum is more understandable, namely, "that there be two pounds two shillings allowed for the surveyors to spend, that is to say, one quart for every cart per day, and the remainder for himself or his partner." On the 1st December, 1825, at a meeting held in the village school-room, the Vicar of Birstal proposed to accept, in lieu of his Easter dues, mortuaries, and vicarial tythes, a sum equal to 1s. per family per annum, provided the amount be raised by a church rate, and paid to him regularly at Easter. The number of families at Wyke at that time was 292, and the vicar's receipts would then be about fourteen guineas. This proposal was at the meeting considered reasonable, and was adopted. In 1787 a penny "lay," or a 1d. in the pound rate, amounted to £3 16s. In 1807 a rate of 1s. in the pound realised £53 8s. In 1817 the town's offices were filled by James Sellers, Samuel Winpenny, William Brook, Samuel Birkby, Joseph Winpenny, Daniel Bateman, John Firth, John Drake, and others.

Wyke has few objects of historical interest to notice, and little around which the glamour of romance can be thrown. Thanks to the credulity of the "good old times," it has a good ghost story or two, which, however, we shall do little more than allude to. A rather notable residence still stands at High Fernley, in a fine position overlooking the valley, which was built in 1678 for William Richardson, brother of Dr. Richardson, of Bierley, who married Mary, the daughter and heiress of John Kershaw, Esq., of Hoyle House, Brighouse. The house has a good appearance yet, although it is of much less dimensions than when, as the companion of Royds Hall and Bierley Hall, it was in its heyday. It has a fine mullioned window, and the original inscription and sundial are still in good preservation. Within the last tenant's recollection there was a splendid oak staircase and gallery leading to a wing which has since been taken down, and in which was an apartment known as the "Captain's room." This was Captain Bevers, a former tenant, who, in the firm belief of many,

"came again" after he had "shuffled off this mortal coil," but, strange to say, without his head! No satisfactory explanation for this strange freak can of course be given, and the only one attempted adds increased perplexity. It is said the Captain died in some mysterious manner while attending the wedding of his brother, who had married a daughter of the Beaumonts of Whitley Hall. In searching the pedigree of this family, sure enough we find a record of the marriage of a daughter of Richard Beaumont taking place at Kirkheaton on the 4th of May, 1742, to John Bevers, M.D. It is to be presumed, however, that the Captain would take his head with him on that joyous occasion, and though we do hear sometimes of people "losing their heads" even on wedding-days, Captain Bevers could not very well have lost his at High Fernley. For some time Miss Rookes, sister of "Squire Leeds," lived at the old hall, and afterwards Mr. Jonathan Seed. During the tenancy of the latter, he found a small bottle of coins buried in front of the house, which circumstance was a "town's talk" at the time, the amount being magnified into something enormous. High Fernley has since been sold by Sir Mathew Wilson to the Low Moor Company, who work the minerals in the neighbourhood. The present tenant is Mr. Abraham Child.

Another notable building situated at Lower Wyke is the old Manor House, now occupied by Mr. James Barraclough, a steward of the Low Moor Company. Over the south door is an inscription giving the date 1614, and above are the initials E. E. On the north doorway, now stopped up, is the date 1694. The initials are those of Empson, Elmsall, or Empsall, by all which names this family figure in old documents. As has been stated, they were lords of the manor at one time. On a monument in the parish church at Thornhill to the family of Elmsall is the following observation:—"The Elmsalls have for ages past been stewards to the Saviles, and still continue so. 1779." Query: Did they obtain possession of the property held by the Saviles in Wyke? The Empsalls and also the Kershaws were yeomen of Wyke for more than three centuries. Both names frequently appear as jurors, &c., in the sessions rolls. The old Manor House was also "haunted." There is a tradition that the last of the Empsalls was murdered, and his body thrown into a well at the end of the Manor House; and that the house was long afterwards haunted by his ghost. Many were the solemn conclaves held to appease this unquiet spirit, but at last the "ghost" allowed itself to be "laid" in the chimney-baulk of the house opposite (formerly occupied by "old Coates," who burnt a candle to drive him away) on condition of having the life of the first living thing that entered the house! The first living thing that did enter was a

cock, with whose life the ghost was appeased ! It is scarcely credible that one of the persons seriously engaged in the "laying" process was the minister of Lightcliffe Church.

The custom of "blowing the horn" once existed at Wyke, and was only discontinued at a comparatively recent period. Having its origin in feudal times, it was no doubt an equivalent for the matin and curfew bell. The Wyke horn was blown from the old Manor House to Storr Hill, at five o'clock in summer and six o'clock in winter, to rouse the inhabitants to labour, and again in the evening. This interesting relic is still in existence, having passed through the hands of successive lords of the manor until it came into the possession of the Rev. W. Houlbrook, late Vicar of Wyke, whose family now preserve it.

A guarantee of the pleasantness of the locality about Lower Wyke may be found in the fact that the Moravians established in 1753 a little "settlement" there. This would be about eleven years after the introduction of Moravianism into Yorkshire. In fact, the first Brethren established themselves at Smith House, Lightcliffe, which is not far from Wyke. The earliest Brethren were principally Germans. As an illustration of the difficulties under which they laboured, the following incident will serve. A German brother, wishing to go to Gomersal, was instructed to ask "Is this the way to Gomersal?" these being the only English words he could use. It so happened that he lost his way, was benighted on the common, and walked into one of the unprotected coal-shafts, then only of slight depth. In this predicament he was found next morning by a collier, up to the middle in water, innocently but anxiously inquiring "Is this the way to Gomersal?" John Wesley preached in the Moravian Chapel, Wyke, in April, 1759, and Mr. Grimshaw read prayers. There were sixty-one members when Wyke was constituted a separate congregation, the number of members in society-fellowship around Wyke being 140. The following were some of the early members of the Wyke congregation :—Jeremiah Carter, stuff maker, and his wife ; Jeremiah Carter, merchant, and his wife ; Mary Pierson ; James Ellis ; Mary Empsall ; Benjamin Horsfall ; Job Wood, weaver ; Joseph Woodhead, weaver ; John Oates, weaver ; Timothy Stocks ; and Sarah Brook, first cook at Fulneck. In 1782 a "sisters' house" was added for the reception of unmarried females of the persuasion, who were at first supported by the sale of the needle-work for which they had a reputation. A ladies' boarding school was also established in an adjoining building. The "sisters' house" has, however, for some time been given up, owing probably to the absence of employment for its inmates. The Rev. S. Connor is the resident

pastor. The little settlement is situated in its own grounds, and is approached from the old Bailiffe Bridge Road by an avenue of trees.

Occupying a commanding position on the high ground above Wyke Bank stands the substantial mansion of Mr. John Taylor, a member of the old Hunsworth family of that name, and a little higher up is St. Mary's Church. The township of Wyke was formed into a church district in 1844 by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who assigned an endowment to it. The church, however, was not built until 1847, when it was erected chiefly through the exertions of the late vicar, who was liberally supported by the partners in the Low Moor Company. The cost was about £3000. The church is in the Early English style, and has a nave, aisles, chancel, and spire 120 feet high. Closely associated with the history of this sacred edifice is the name of the late vicar, the Rev. Wm. Houlbrook, M.A., who for twenty-nine years had held the living. The rev. gentleman was of an unobtrusive disposition, and during this long period, in addition to his pastoral duties, he quietly indulged his literary tastes. He was an assiduous collector of local topography, and to the courtesy of his family we are indebted for several valuable items from his MSS. included in this paper. The rev. gentleman died in April, 1874, aged sixty-seven, and as a memorial of him the east window of the church was, in 1875, filled with stained glass, at the cost of the parishioners. Mr. Houlbrook's extensive collection of topographical works was secured for the Bradford Free Library, to which it forms a very valuable acquisition. The living, which is worth £153 a year, is in the gift of the Crown and the Bishop of Ripon alternately, and it has been bestowed upon the Rev. H. R. Hartley, late curate of the Bradford Parish Church. The National Schools, erected in 1850, are situated near the church, and a new Infants' School of neat construction will shortly be opened at Storr Hill.

Pleasantly situated at Westfield is the Independent Chapel of that name, which was built in 1824. It may be remarked in passing, that that year seems to have been especially a period of energy among religious denominations of all shades, as we find that numerous places of worship were then originated. The chapel is a plain, substantial erection, supported on one side by the school buildings of Gothic pretensions, and on the other by the minister's house, of not especially mediæval type. There is a capacious burial ground in the rear.

Connected with the founding of this place of worship, and indeed with the recent history of Wyke, must be associated the name of the Rev. Benjamin Firth, whose life itself forms an eventful history. He was born at Oakenshaw, and was employed as a farm labourer

until he was grown up, at which time he received a kick from a horse, which so far injured his hip bone that it interfered with his employment, and was apparent in his walk. At that time, while he was a thoughtless young man, a neighbour named Henry Butler often gave him good advice. Being in a quarry one day with Mr. Butler, the conversation turned on religious matters, when a large stone tumbled down the side of the quarry. There was a "sermon" in that stone, which, under the pointed homely speech of Henry Butler, had a salutary effect on the mind of Mr. Firth. Becoming the subject of serious impressions, he and his companion, James Wilson (who in a few years entered, and is now in, the Wesleyan ministry), began to attend religious services. Mr. Firth then entered upon a rigid course of studies under the tuition of the Rev. James Scott, Independent minister, Cleckheaton. By this means and other helps he soon became a tolerably good scholar in mathematics, Latin, and Greek, and was one of the best penmen of the day. He was usually called the "learned plebeian." Mr. Firth first commenced a school at Dudley Hill, afterwards at Scholes, and next removed to Manor House, Hartshead Moor, where he conducted a school successfully, his pupils frequently numbering 150. In 1822 Mr. Firth opened the village school at Wyke for preaching on Sunday evenings. The congregations here were such as to lead him, with Mr. Jas. Sellers, Mr. John Briggs, and a few others, to take into consideration the propriety of erecting the chapel at Westfield, which was commenced in 1824, the foundation-stone being laid on Good Friday by Mr. Sellers; the Rev. Jas. Scott and Mr. Dixon, of Cleckheaton, being also present. The hymns for the occasion were composed by Mr. Firth, the first commencing—

"Hail, mighty Saviour, babe of woe,
May Wyke thy great salvation know."

The chapel was opened, with some rejoicing, in Whit Week, 1825, the sermons being preached by a father and his two sons, the Rev. Ed. Parsons, of Leeds, Rev. James Parsons, of York, and Rev. Edward Parsons, of London.

Mr. Firth became the first minister, although not then ordained, and he preached without salary for the long period of twenty-six years, besides conducting his school and giving unstinted service for the good of the village in any capacity when he was called upon to do so. The last years of his life were embittered by the breaking down of a bank and other unfortunate circumstances which resulted in the loss of £6000, the whole of his life's savings. This preyed upon his mind, and one evening in the year 1853, after enumerating his troubles, he had a fit which terminated in his death at fifty-six years of

age. He was a polished scholar and an able preacher. The amount of good done through his instrumentality in Wyke will probably never be known, although many now living can bear willing testimony to the fruit of his labours. Mr. Firth married Miss Mary Bateman, of Park-house, daughter of Mr. Daniel Bateman. She died in her 31st year, and was buried in Westfield Chapel, leaving a son and daughter, who now reside at Auckland, New Zealand, and who have lately erected a splendid tablet in the chapel to the memory of their parents. A monument in the chapel yard subsequently erected, was designed by his former assistant, Mr. Joseph Wright, of Wibsey, to whom we are indebted for many particulars contained in this notice.

The Rev. Charles Illingworth succeeded Mr. Firth, but resigned in 1868, having officiated for fifteen years. During his ministry the debt on the Sunday school was paid, and extensive alterations were made in the chapel. The Rev. Archibald Craven is the present minister, having entered upon his duties in July, 1869. In 1871-2, the debt of £600, incurred in the building of a school house, and the debt remaining on the parsonage, were paid off. A further sum of £500, incurred in renovating the chapel and school property, has since been raised. A Sunday school has been connected with the place since its opening, and since 1851 a day school also. Jubilee services were held in May last, being the fiftieth anniversary of the chapel, when the Rev. James Parsons, who had officiated at the opening, again preached.

There are two Wesleyan chapels at Wyke, but neither of them is of long standing. Formerly the Methodists of the village attended the Wesleyan Chapel at Low Moor, and there were classes held in private houses at Wyke for many years, faithfully led by one of the Carters, of Low Moor. In 1869 the Wesleyan Chapel at Wyke was built, and in 1870 the one at New Roadside, the latter being erected at a cost of £1400. Sunday schools had been previously conducted for about ten years. Both chapels are now in the Low Moor Circuit. There is another little Methodist chapel on Wyke Common, with the popular and often doubtless truthful inscription, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." A Temperance Hall was erected near Storr Hill in 1860, and rebuilt in 1871, this being rendered necessary by the undermining of the first building.

Soon after the enclosing of the waste land at Wyke a small plot was reserved for a school site. The school was erected about 1818, by subscriptions obtained from the inhabitants, assisted by Mr. Mayer, lord of the manor, and Miss Currer. This school was turned to useful purposes as a day and Sunday school, and a place for the transaction of town's business. The distinction, however, between the course of

teaching on Sundays and weekdays can scarcely be defined, inasmuch as the scholars on Sundays took their slates and copybooks, and the superintendent, David Kellett, was paid half-a-crown for his, no doubt, hard day's work. The Sunday school was connected with the Moravian Chapel at Lower Wyke, and continued to be so until Wyke Church was built, when the clergyman took possession of it. Mr. John Ramsden, of Halifax, became the first day school teacher. The good old man removed to his native town and died only a short time since. Mr. Josh. Boothroyd, a native of the village of Wyke, succeeded Mr. Ramsden, and continued many years. He resigned, and became one of the relieving officers of the North Bierley Union. Mr. Boothroyd was succeeded by Mr. George Wright, who, like his predecessors, presided over as rough a lot as ever were drilled by pedagogue. Mr. Wright was a small man, but very active and firm in his school notwithstanding. He was an excellent mathematician. After a few years he vacated the premises to make room for the Church party.

At the time of the erection of this old school, Wyke was intellectually at a low ebb. Superstition had full scope among its untaught population, and "boggards," ghostly visitors, and witchcraft were nowhere more implicitly believed in. To prey upon the credulity of believers in the supernatural the village boasted an "astrologer," named Eli Collins, the "Wyke Wizard," but he does not seem to have made a very ample living. Some examples of the simplicity, to say the least, of the inhabitants have already been given in the case of the headless captain and old Empsall, and some time after this a somewhat similar occurrence took place, which created the utmost excitement in the village. A man named Briggs, who occupied a farm near the Moravian Chapel, was currently believed to have sold his servant, named Jack Schofield, to the Devil, and he was to be delivered to his Satanic majesty in a barn on a certain day. The day having arrived, Jack, being a great ignoramus, became greatly terrified. Groups of people gathered round the barn, but kept at a respectful distance, as it was understood that outside a certain charmed circle Old Nicholas was powerless. Of course nothing came of it, and sensible people began to conjecture that Briggs had concocted this scheme to convince his neighbours that their superstitions were absurd fallacies. The village, however, possessed oracles of a more reputable order than Eli Collins, named Drake, Best, and Holroyd—men who were wise, not only in their own estimation, but in that of their neighbours.

"The village all declared how much they knew,
'Twas certain they could read, and cipher too."

He would needs have been a bold man to have disputed the dictum of this trio in any matter, social, political, or polemical, on which they had delivered judgment. At that time two weekly newspapers entered the village, of which, however, only one was public property—public, that is, to the fifteen who subscribed a halfpenny each to defray its cost. This select number met regularly on Saturday evenings to listen to the “oracles” and discuss the week’s news—and who can measure the healthful influence that went forth to the village generally from this humble “working men’s club?” It is a fact that, notwithstanding the absence of educational facilities, the tone of morality of Wyke was generally good, robberies being especially rare.

Wyke is a straggling village, with plenty of room for expansion. If this is to be absorbed, as in a large measure it bids fair to be, it would be well before worse consequences happen that the village should exchange its present appellation of being the “worst drained place in the district,” for a more desirable one. Many houses lately built, and some now building, are without any provision for drainage, but the “outlet” difficulty will have to be overcome before any practical solution can be arrived at. Wyke is under a “rural sanitary authority,” which is composed of the township guardian for the time being, and the guardians for Tong, Scholes, and Oakenshaw. Just now the ratepayers are somewhat exercised by the fact that the neighbouring Local Board of North Bierley have petitioned the Local Government Board to be allowed to take a slice off the township of Wyke, consisting chiefly of New Roadside, in order to properly deal with sewage which is now allowed to flow into the North Bierley district. Consequent on the above petition a Government inquiry was held in December, 1875. Up to February, 1876, no decision had been arrived at by the Local Government Board, but pending its receipt, at a town’s meeting of the ratepayers, held on January 6, it was resolved to form a Local Board for the township of Wyke.

As to employment, there is abundance for the male portion of the community, chiefly in the numerous collieries with which the countryside is honeycombed, and at Low Moor Ironworks. Then there are Messrs. J. & J. Sharp’s dyeworks at Pickle Bridge, Messrs. Stott’s cotton works at Bailiffe Bridge, Messrs. Sellers’ card works, the brick works of Messrs. Birkby, &c. A few years ago a praiseworthy movement was initiated by a few gentlemen to provide employment for the women and children, and the worsted mill and weaving shed, now occupied by Messrs. Hind, Bros., was accordingly built by a limited company. Another limited company established in 1870 the Waterworks, the supply being obtained from the Bradford Corporation.

Some reference to the hamlets of Oakenshaw and Scholes is necessary, inasmuch as in the case of Wyke and many other places little record exists of them beyond the stereotyped half-dozen lines to be found in any directory. Certainly there is not much to be said about them, and, from their previous obscurity, they might even have been left unnoticed in these "Round-about Papers" without the omission being detected; but this is perhaps a sufficient reason why a paper should be devoted to them. Oakenshaw, at least, has strong claims on the historian, if a tradition be correct that it was intended as the future Bradford! If this be so, all we can say is that it has sadly missed its opportunity, as, of all the villages which cluster round the great "metropolis of the worsted trade," Oakenshaw still remains one of the most primitive. The only ground for this curious tradition seems to be that at a cross road near Thornhill Lees there is an ancient stone post with the inscription, "To Bradford 8 miles," and that is just the distance to Oakenshaw cross! The village is still a quaint old-world place. Until very recently, if any native Rip Van Winkle had dosed away five-score years he would have found less change on waking than did that frowsy Dutchman—the Bradford that was to be remained "as it was in the beginning." The inhabitants from time immemorial have been isolated, easy-going, very clannish, and varying in manners and customs from the surrounding villages. Although pursuing this jog-trot pace—which they were enabled to do from the fact that their farms have been let at very low rentals—the natives of Oakenshaw prize "filthy lucre" and know its value as much as anybody, and many a fat stocking-foot has been handed down from father to son in that quiet old place. In few places has uninterrupted descent been more observed than in Oakenshaw, several of the farms having been in the same family for above two hundred years! But old-fashioned prejudices and customs are now giving way in consequence of the influx of outsiders, and although the change grates terribly upon the feelings of the old people, the rising generation are alive to their interests, and are fast being merged into the ordinary manufacturing community to be found anywhere "round about Bradford."

Oakenshaw village is pleasantly situated at the bend or shoulder of rising land skirting the Cleckheaton valley, and adjoins upon Low Moor, Wyke, and Scholes. In olden times it stood on the main high road from Halifax to Leeds by way of Hunsworth and Wisket Hill, at which time it might have been a convenient "baiting-place." A branch of the Whitehall Road from Low Moor to Cleckheaton has in recent years placed it upon a broader and decidedly busier highway. The branch of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway to Cleckheaton and

Dewsbury also runs through it. With the adjoining hamlet of Scholes, it forms part of the township and manor of Cleckheaton, the lordship of which is held by Sir M. Wilson. The manor of Oakenshaw seems to have been part of the estate bought by Nicholas Richardson in 1561, and to have been in the family ever since. An instance of the good feeling which exists between the present landlord and his tenants was exhibited in September, 1874, when the whole tenantry presented an address to Sir Mathew Wilson in celebration of his elevation to a baronetcy, and "high jinks" prevailed for two days afterwards at the Richardson's Arms.

The name is easily derivable from Anglo-Saxon sources : Oaken (oak), shaw (shade), but as very few oak trees are now to be found in the immediate neighbourhood, this, without further proof, might seem mere assumption. We have had satisfactory evidence, however, that many venerable giants did rear their heads around the village. The hamlet is still chiefly agricultural, although cloth-making was very common at the beginning of this century. Some rude looms still linger in barn corners, at which two men used to work, he who caught the shuttle well with the left hand being allowed 1d. a day extra. Peter Firth, John Sugden, and John Wilson were about the last engaged in the cloth trade. The clothmakers bought their own wool, travelling frequently into Lincolnshire for that purpose. The corn mill at the lower end of the village is of ancient date (1730), having been built by Dr. Richardson, and when dimity and calicoes were made the mill supplied flour for stiffening the warps. The old mill has been run by the Bateman family for generations, Mr. Jonas Bateman having the present tenancy of it. While in one old farm-house we were shown a relic of the former primitive times, namely, a stone mortar belonging to some former Sugdens, dated 1731, with the initials W. M. S. This ancient utensil had been used for crushing salt, at a time when that article was neither so portable nor so cheap as at present. An indispensable item of outfit on setting up house in olden times was an old horse-shoe, which, nailed to the house door, was considered sufficient to scare away evil spirits. Several relics of this former superstition may be found in Oakenshaw.

A muster-roll of genuine Oakenshaw families would only comprise half-a-dozen names, the following being the principal :—Sugden, Bateman, Butterworth, Firth, and Haley. Of the Sugden family many branches exist. Mr. George Sugden, of the firm of Sugden & Briggs, Bradford, is a member of one branch. Mr. Briggs is also connected with Oakenshaw. Leaving their native village to learn the manufacturing business, these gentlemen have become prosperous

and influential, and are held in high respect in the neighbourhood. Mr. Sugden lives at the Manor House, Hartshead Moor, formerly tenanted by the Rev. B. Firth. Mr. Briggs lives at Westfield, Wyke, where he is spoken of as a bountiful benefactor and friend to the neighbourhood. Two other natives who have gone out and succeeded in a different sphere are the Rev. James Wilson, a popular Wesleyan minister, now of Burnley, and his brother, the Rev. Matthew Wilson, a missionary in the South Seas. The Batemans were as numerous as the Sugdens, and kept the old White Bear for upwards of a century. The old "public" has, however, given place to a larger establishment, called the Richardson's Arms. The Butterworths were a sporting family, and among their other accomplishments they were considered champions of knor and spell. One member, named Thomas, catered for the taste of that time by keeping game-cocks, of which he had a large number. Madam Richardson, of Bierley Hall, also kept a pack of hounds, or rather they were billeted on the tenants, and one of the Sugdens—"Hunting Bill Sugden"—was the huntsman. A story is told of "Hunting Bill," that when a young man he was employed by the second Dr. Richardson at a shilling a day in making the artificial ponds at Bierley Hall. The doctor having received intimation that Bill's father wished to retire from the farm, *compelled* Bill against his own desire to succeed him, the very thought of it passing out of the family being too much for a Richardson. The farm is still held by Mr. John Sugden. Some idea of the increased value of land at Oakenshaw may be gained from the fact that Woodroyd Farm was bought by Dr. Richardson from Jonathan Firth for £150, and the minerals thereunder have been since sold for £2000. Another farm at Mendel End, belonging to Joseph Sugden, was bought for £400, and the minerals have been sold for £1700.

Until the Cleckheaton branch railway was cut through the district in 1848, no development of the hamlet had taken place, Miss Curren not caring to sell an inch of land for any purpose. Since Sir Mathew Wilson came into possession, however, the appearance and even the character of the place have undergone a change. Many cottages have been built, and a large worsted factory called Oakenshaw Mill erected. Up to the year 1874 there was neither church nor chapel in the village, the Old White Chapel, about a mile away, being the chief sanctuary and resting-place. A new Wesleyan Chapel, however, has lately been erected. Truth compels us to state, nevertheless, that if chapel, cottages, or mill had depended upon Oakenshaw purses they would never have been built. A small school was erected in 1822, principally by Miss Curren, aided by subscriptions from the

tenants. Previous to this, Dame Swires directed the village learning in her humble way ; and, in the dim recollection of those "dear old times," one can imagine the old lady "patting the ferule on her palm," while before her stood a motley group, who,

" When the signal came,
Discharged their *a b—abs* against the dame."

The school was enlarged in 1855 at Miss Currer's sole expense. It has from the first been used as a day school under Mr. Boddy and subsequent masters, and was occupied as a Sunday school for many years by the Wesleyans. This body, however, erected last year a commodious chapel, at a cost of £2000. The new edifice occupies a position adjoining the old school-room on a slight elevation above the Cleckheaton Road. The site was given by Sir Mathew Wilson. The chapel is a plain but substantial structure in the form of a parallelogram, with vestibule and vestry at the entrance, and is at present seated for about 200 worshippers. Should occasion require it, a gallery can be added for 230 sittings. The chapel is in the Cleckheaton Circuit, but considerable interest has been taken in its erection by the Wesleyans of Low Moor.

Standing in a conspicuous position in the village street is an ancient cross, composed of a fluted column of considerable height, cut from an immense block of stone, which is mounted on four terraces of steps. A square shaft, forming four sundials, surmounted by the remains of a weathercock, completes a structure which has given rise to much conjecture as to its origin and use. Doubtless this was one of the hobbies on which the second Dr. Richardson spent so much of his money, and it would form a notable landmark from the lawn of Bierley Hall. Associated with Oakenshaw is a tradition to the effect that the people were once so rude that their manners became a by-word throughout the district. It was reported of them that they kept their heads in such a shock-headed condition from Sunday to Sunday, that an iron comb was chained to a tree which stood in the middle of the village, for the use of the whole parish. It is only just to remark that Oakenshawites, while admitting the existence of the comb, indignantly repel the insinuation as to the use it was put to. It seems that formerly there was a manor court held at Oakenshaw, the jurisdiction of which extended to Cleckheaton. These manor courts were for the recovery of debts and the punishment of defaulting debtors, and one significant mode of punishment consisted in defaulters (or, as they were called, schedulers) being sent to Oakenshaw cross to have their hair combed, which was considered a great disgrace. Oakenshawites contend, however, that all the "schedulers" came from Cleckheaton, and that a

bankrupt in Oakenshaw was a thing unknown. In confirmation of this version the following doggerel lines are often quoted in the district :—

“ Birstal for ringers,
Heckmondwike for singers,
Dewsbury for peddlers,
Cleckheaton for sheddlers.”

We must leave this interesting dispute to be settled by the parties most immediately concerned in it.

In 1661, amongst the sixty persons imprisoned in York Castle, for refusing to swear when the Oath of Allegiance to Charles II. was tendered to them, were the following, viz., William Pearson and George Croft, of Cleckheaton, along with others from Bradford, Bowling, North Bierley, &c. On the 10th of June, 1662, nine persons were taken at a meeting at Oakenshaw, and sent prisoners (on the above accusation) to York Castle, where one of them died. Eight years previously, in 1654, as Christopher Taylor, a Quaker, was passing through Oakenshaw to attend a meeting, he was struck and knocked down and so grievously abused that his cheek-bone was broken, by Thomas Naylor, of Oakenshaw, who “sometime after was smoking tobacco in a room in which flax was laid, when the ashes fell through the chinks of the floor and fired the flax. The other persons escaped, but he, taking up the boards to quench the flax, was by a sudden eruption of the fire and smoke, smothered or burnt to death.”

Here is a curious item, the original from which it is taken having been sent to an Oakenshaw farmer. It is dated Birstal, April 12, 1756 :—“Mr. William Sugden,—I desire you to attend the sacrament on Whit-Sunday, and bring with you your church-lay (rate) which for the past year are 20 lays, so your share is £10. Herein fail not, and oblige yours, THOS. GOMERSAL.”

The worsted mill at Oakenshaw, to which reference has been made as introducing another element into the place, was built in 1868 by a joint stock company, and the extensive premises are occupied, for spinning and manufacturing, by Messrs. Leedham Binns & Co., Mr. Fountain Read, and Mr. T. W. Clough. As almost a necessary consequence, a colony of cottage dwellings has sprung up around it. In connection with this manufactory may be noticed a new branch of business but recently introduced by Mr. Leedham Binns, for the making of “Patent Endless Bands” for manufacturing and domestic purposes. The bands for factory use are intended to supersede the ordinary “mill-bands” used for driving the spindles of spinning machinery. The band for domestic use is styled the “Victoria endless window-blind cord.”

The population of Oakenshaw in 1851 was 233; during the next ten years the increase was two only; in 1871 the population was 283.

Scholes, like Oakenshaw, is a hamlet in the township of Cleckheaton and the parish of Birstal, and occupies an elevated position south of Oakenshaw, adjoining Clifton, Hartshead, and Wyke. Like those of the surrounding district, its hillsides abound in coal and ironstone, a fact of which we are reminded by meeting any afternoon troops of coal-begrimed men and boys returning home on foot, or being towed along in caravans as grimy as themselves. Notwithstanding the nature of their employment, which is significantly betrayed by each of them carrying a "safety-lamp," these dusky "mouldy-warps" are a merry lot, and will presently make sad havoc of the breasts of mutton and "trimmings" which Sarah or Betty has in store for them. And well they have earned such a sumptuous repast, poor fellows! All the mineral produce is conveyed to the furnaces at Low Moor on tramways, and one of the curious sights of the district is the rapid passage of trams in all directions without apparent means of propulsion. The waggons are drawn up and let down by stationary engines. The pits vary in depth from eighty to two hundred yards.

Scholes or *Schales* was a term in our ancient tongue denoting *skells* or huts. In Saxon times when hamlets were formed, and when small colonies of freemen associated for mutual protection, this might have been an appropriate term for the half-dozen rude dwellings then existing at Scholes. Now, however, the modern erections (almost exclusively cottages) are really well built, especially for a village containing miners, for whom it used to be supposed any tumble-down shanties would do. Many of the new houses have been erected by the Low Moor Company for their own workpeople, others by a Friendly Society, while many owe their existence to individual effort, with the assistance of building societies. The village contains excellent National School buildings, erected in 1846 mainly through the efforts of the incumbent, the Rev. R. F. Taylor, upon ground given by the lady of the manor, Miss Curren. They were extended in 1871 by the addition of an infants' school. The Methodist Chapel, built in 1824, is a small edifice fronting the high road that runs through the village. Another building is the Old School, probably a handsome structure in its time, but now unworthy the ground it stands upon. The school was built by public subscription in 1790 on common land given by Miss Curren and the other freeholders having rights on the common. The seven trustees appointed to manage it upon its erection were the Rev. John

Crosse, vicar of Bradford, and formerly curate of White Chapel ; the Rev. Joseph Ogden, curate of White Chapel ; John Walker, Esq., of Waterclough, Halifax ; John Hopkinson, tanner ; William Williamson, merchant ; Robert Crosland and Joseph Jagger, card makers. The Rev. Mr. Ogden was the first teacher, and the Rev. Benjamin Firth also taught there. Mr. William Hodgson, the present clerk at White Chapel, was the last master, but he removed his scholars to the National School in 1847, since which time the Old School has fallen into disuse, except for town's meetings. A Liberal Club was formed at Scholes in 1874.

In 1806 Cleckheaton Common and Scholes Green, 150 acres, were enclosed by Act of Parliament passed in 1802. Alexander Calvert, of Richmond, Yorkshire, was commissioner, and he appointed Thomas Brook, of Cleckheaton, Robert Crosland, of Oldfieldnook, and John Hopkinson, of Hartshead Moor, surveyors, in pursuance of the said Act. The Low Moor Company work the minerals under the new land by lease from the lord of the manor. Under the old land the minerals belong to separate freeholders. About three years ago a new company, called the Crosland Coal Company, was established to work the minerals on the Oldfieldnook estate of Mr. James Crosland. They have since acquired some of the minerals of adjoining freeholders, and in addition carry on brick works and stone quarrying. It must not be supposed, however, that mineral wealth is all that Scholesites have to depend upon. Long before "black diamonds" were known of, or at least valued, at Scholes, card-making was located there, and, though not requiring many "hands," it may yet be said to be the staple trade. At High Popplewell we believe it was carried on by the Overend family about 1700. In 1717 Robert Crosland, of Oldfieldnook, began the business there, and it is still carried on by Mr. Robert F. Crosland. There are besides Messrs. Joseph Sellers (an old and noted family engaged in this business), Wm. Sharp & Sons, James Taylor & Sons, and Anthony Butterfield. Card-setting was formerly done by women and children, and wire-drawing by men. The uses of cards have been much extended, and some very elaborate machinery is now called into requisition. The worsted business has also got a footing in Scholes, and may be trusted to make its way. The Albert Mill Company erected in 1862 two mills, and houses adjoining. Messrs. William Sharp & Son and Messrs. James Taylor & Sons rent one of these for their card business, and Messrs. Firth, Holdsworth & Co. the other for worsted spinning. Closely adjoining is Prospect Mill, the property of Mr. Sellers, a portion of which is occupied by Mr. John Corbett for stuff manufacturing.

A new church at Scholes is now in course of erection on the Green, on land given by Mr. William Sharp, the cost of the edifice being estimated at £3500. It will consist of nave, north aisle and chancel, with organ chamber and vestries. When completed there will be a tower and spire, rising to a height of 112 feet. Accommodation will be provided for 474 persons. The style adopted is English Gothic of the twelfth century, and whilst simple in character, the edifice is intended to be most substantial in its construction. The architects are Messrs. T. H. & F. Healey.

The older portion of Scholes is easily discernible. There is Low Fold, the Town-gate and the Green (alas, not now verdant!), and clustering about the latter are several residences of antique date and appearance. Some of these old places introduce us to a family once of some note in the district—the Walkers—a branch of whom possessed nearly the whole of Scholes, while the parent stock were great people at Lightcliffe and at Waterclough, in Halifax parish. They have, however, long since sold out at Scholes, the Low Moor Company being the principal purchasers. Their latest possessions were at Crow Nest, Lightcliffe, which was purchased by Sir Titus Salt from Captain Sutherland-Walker, a descendant on the maternal side. Blossom Hall, at Low Fold, a former residence of the Walker family, is a remarkable old place, and enough is now left of it to bespeak its former appearance. The entrance doorway, with the initials S. W. I. W., date 1676, with the original oaken door and internal panelling, are unmistakable relics. The present owner is Mr. William Hodgson, parish clerk, whose great-grandfather, Joshua Hodgson, bought it about 1776 of Josh. Field, to whom it came by marriage with Mary Edmondson. A notability is William Hodgson, “t’clerk,” of whom any village might be proud. He has in his time played many parts. Having been village schoolmaster, he has also been clerk at White Chapel since 1830, and is well stored with information of that old sanctuary for long before that period. He is a farmer and gardener, too, on scientific principles, his wheat and vegetables being something worth paying a visit to see. William is also a wonderful “figurist” and calculator. In 1858 he published an “Index of Time,” and he is also the author of a remarkable work, called “Time’s Telescope, or Perpetual Almanack for 10,000 Years,” published in 1872. Finally, he is a teetotaller of the staunchest type. The Overends of High Popplewell have been previously mentioned as introducing the card business into Scholes. The mill now standing was built in 1813 for woollen manufacturing, and in it was set up the first steam engine in this neighbourhood. High Popplewell was also originally a portion of the Walker estate,

but was purchased by the Overends at the beginning of this century. Mrs. Norbury is the present representative of the Overend family.

Another old and respected family at Scholes is that of the Croslands, of Oldfieldnook, a pretty spot on Scholes Lane, just beyond the village. This family have been members of the Society of Friends since its rise. The extensive grounds comprise card-factory and family residence, and in their arrangement exhibit that neatness and taste almost inseparable from a Quaker settlement. In 1697, Robert Crosland removed from Upper Blacup, in Liversedge, to Oldfieldnook, some old deeds showing that the land had been a portion of "Waddington's farm." It was here that his son Robert began the card business in 1717, and in 1726 married Grace Pollard, of Lower Parkhouse, Low Moor, whose grandfather had been imprisoned in 1660 for declining to take the oath of allegiance to Charles II. The late Mr. Robert Crosland, ironfounder, of Bradford, was a member of this family, which is now represented at Scholes by Mr. Robert Firth Crosland, card-maker. Mr. Crosland has in his possession many heirlooms in old oak furniture, &c., which are highly prized. The present house is dated 1739, the accompanying initials being R. G. C. A previous residence, however, stood on the site of the present card mill, which was built in 1830. On a portion of the grounds fronting the highroad stands the Victoria Institute, erected by Mr. James Crosland. It comprises a nice assembly-room, reading-room, &c., and in addition to its primary use as a Friends' meeting-house, it is cheerfully appropriated to other useful purposes. In the reading-room there is a library of useful books, and a cabinet containing many fossils found in the coal measures of the district. True to their convictions, the Crosland family have frequently resisted the payment of church-rates. We select two instances, which at least show the leniency of the officials of the period, to whom perhaps extreme measures were an unpleasant duty :—"1720. Michael Mortimer and Jeremy Thornton, constable and steeple-warden, distrained on Robert Crosland for 6s. 7d. and 2s. charges. Took 9s. worth cards." "1728. Robert Barker, bailiff, and James Law, steeple-warden, distrained on Robert Crosland, sen., for 5s. and 3s. charges. Took 1 cwt. meal 12s. 6d., and sack 1s."

The ecclesiastical district of White Chapel consists of the hamlets of Scholes and Oakenshaw, with part of Cleckheaton. The chapel, sometimes called by its venerable name, the Old White Chapel of the North, is situate in White Chapel Lane, midway between Scholes and Cleckheaton. At the time of its erection it must have been in a very isolated situation. In Saxton's Survey (taken in 1575) it is called

Heaton Chapel—the Cleck, or Clack (from clæg, clay) having been added within the past century. From an ancient inscription on the north wall we learn that “This is the Old White Chapel of the North. John Leversedge, Richard Pollard, chapel wardens, 1707.” Also, that “This ancient place of God’s worship was rebuilt in the year of our redemption 1706.” The restoration is ascribed to Dr. Richardson. No record of the origin of the name apparently exists. Previous to its restoration the chapel had been for a long period deserted and ruinous, the small burial ground in front affording pasture for sheep, which with their young found a welcome shelter within the sacred but deserted edifice. Even in its restored form the Old White Chapel was a poor insignificant building. Archbishop Sharp, it is said, refused to consecrate it, owing to the fact that an ancient yew tree was growing in the churchyard. As some explanation of this tradition, it may be stated that after the introduction of Christianity into our island, where churches were not immediately erected on the sites of memorable events, crosses were set up, and about them the clergy and people assembled for devotion and to receive the sacrament. “Afterwards,” says Scatcherd, “upon the consecration of a church, it seems to have been a custom to erect a cross in the centre of the churchyard, or to plant a yew tree, or perhaps to do both ; and hence it was by seeing an ancient yew tree in the burial ground of Old White Chapel that Archbishop Sharp knew it to be consecrated ground, and refused to consecrate it afresh.” The trunk of the old yew tree still stands before the south entrance to the chapel. Although gradually crumbling to decay, it is carefully guarded as a venerated monument of antiquity.

The chapel was rebuilt in the year 1821, Samuel Birkby and John Hopkinson being then wardens. It is a neat edifice in the early English style, and contains 800 sittings, of which 186 are free. At the time it was rebuilt a gallery was added to the north side, and a little was added to the length. At this rebuilding a new organ was erected, but this was demolished on the 7th of January, 1839, in the memorable wind which passed over on that day. The belfry was blown down upon the roof and fell through the organ, the bell being found in the middle aisle. Mr. Overend (one of the High Popplewell family) was appointed organist in 1822, and continued his services unpaid until the close of 1871, a period of fifty years. He died on May 31, 1873, in his seventy-second year. Mr. Overend was deprived of his sight at the age of nine months. His friend and coadjutor, Wm. Hodgson, parish clerk, says of him, :—“He could play most of Handel’s compositions, and I could teach him a psalm tune in five minutes. The

most astonishing thing was that when he had been taught anything he retained it until within a few months of his death. He composed many of the tunes used at White Chapel."

The burial-ground connected with the Old White Chapel has long been a hallowed resting-place of the dead. In the older portion on the south front there are many curiously-ornamented grave-stones of ancient date. For generations, too, the old chapel was the only sanctuary in the district. Even after the little Wesleyan chapel at Scholes was built in 1824, its members, true to the advice of their founder, adjourned to White Chapel to partake of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The living is now valued at £200, and is in the gift of Sir Mathew Wilson. The register of ministers dates from 1723, when the Rev. William Brown was incumbent, but none of his successors held the living above a few years. The Rev. John Crosse, afterwards vicar of Bradford, was incumbent in 1774. The Rev. Thos. Fourniss Wilson, uncle of Sir Mathew, was incumbent from 1805, but did not reside at Scholes. The Rev. R. F. Taylor, the present incumbent, succeeded the Rev. George Winter as curate for the Rev. Thos. F. Wilson, and upon the death of the latter in 1837 he entered upon the incumbency. At White Chapel there are interred several members of the Richardson family, including the celebrated Dr. Richardson, and his son Richard Richardson, to whom are erected elegant marble monuments.

Before closing we must collect a few oddments rummaged from town's books and documents dating from 1651. The names that occur are those of prominent men of Cleckheaton, Scholes, and Oakenshaw, these places being then as now joined. In 1651 Wm. Pearson was churchwarden for White Chapel, and his accounts were attested by Wm. Walker, Richard Rayner, Joshua Taylor, Edward Brook, and Edward Hargreaves. Peculiar conditions were attached to the tenure of land at Scholes at one time, the yearly payment being frequently a fat chicken or dish of eggs. In 1700, the names of Robert Crosland, John Butterworth, Thomas Birkhead, Richard Bolland, Richard Rayner, and John Wilkinson occur. In 1738-45, those of Michael Mortimer, Benj. Hepworth, Richard Brook, Samuel Butterworth, Zephaniah Smith, Michael Firth, Henry and Robt. Birkby, &c. In 1754 symptoms of dissatisfaction at the joint partnership of Cleckheaton, Oakenshaw, and Scholes, began to manifest themselves, notwithstanding that it is recorded that "from time immemorial" the township of Cleckheaton had been divided into these three "villes or hamlets." In 1772 the prominent men were Robert Birkby, Robert Overend, Obadiah Brooke, Anthony Butterfield, John Bateman,

Daniel Bateman, Benjamin Hodgson, &c. Such was the lawlessness and insecurity prevailing in the neighbourhood a hundred years ago that, in 1773, an "indemnification" was entered into by about fifty inhabitants of the township to mutually protect and make good each other's losses from house-breaking, cattle stealing, &c. ! In 1800 the poor's accounts rose enormously, reaching to £286, next to £345, and to £543 in 1812. Of late years the names of John Sugden, James Sugden, and Jonas Bateman, of Oakenshaw, and Joseph Sellers, George Naylor, William Hodgson, and Robert F. Crosland, of Scholes, will be found prominent in town's affairs.

In Scholes, the population was in 1851, 972 ; in 1861, 1054 ; and in 1871, 1272. A considerable increase, fully equal to that of the previous ten years, has taken place in Scholes since 1871.

SECOND DISTRICT.

CLAYTON—QUEENSBURY—DENHOLME—THORNTON—
ALLERTON.

CLAYTON is pleasantly situated on the table-land lying below the ridge which stretches from Horton Bank Top to the Mountain, on the southern side of the tract of country long known as Bradford-dale, and is within an easy walk of Bradford. John James speaks of the township generally as "little diversified or marked except with straight stone fences, and here and there a solitary tree to mark the dreariness of the scene." But Mr. James had an artist's love for foliage, and even deemed Wibsey Slack susceptible of improvement if planted with trees! We shall not dispute the dictum of so correct a judge, inasmuch as every tree planted (where it will thrive) is so much gain commercially and artistically. But with regard to Mr. James's definition of "dreariness," as applied to the slopes of Clayton, we hold it to be a little exaggerated. That the landscape would be materially improved were it more thickly studded with timber may be admitted, but that it is not so may in a measure be explained by the fact that at no very remote period the land was unenclosed, and that when it passed into private hands the owners did not settle upon it and build and plant. Hence, there are few old mansions, with surrounding plantations of noble trees, which are the life and glory of a landscape. However true Mr. James's description may be of the upper portion of the township, it will not be denied that the position of the village of Clayton itself, situate as it is on a commanding plateau overlooking the Thornton valley, and receiving the fresh breezes from the moorlands of the west, is a most desirable one. That it is a healthy situation may be judged from the fact that no medical man has within living memory been able to find a lodgment there. A very great portion of the land is under grass, a ploughed field being a rarity, and the principal produce is milk. We know not whether it be that the farmers of the district are more conscientious than their neighbours, but Clayton milk is held in high favour by town housewives. The township is bounded by two streams; on the north by the Thornton Beck, which as it passes through Bradford is afterwards better known as the Bradford Beck, and on the south by Blackshaw Beck running into the Calder at or near Brighouse.

Clayton has had no eventful history, or striking increase of population and wealth, to bring it within special notice under those heads. At the first census of 1801 it had a township population of over 2000, and the census of 1871 only showed a total of 6436. The present rateable value is about £13,000; in 1855 it was £6154, thus showing a palpable increase in this respect during the past twenty years. In the Domesday Record, Clayton was surveyed under the manor of Bolton, to which, at the time of the Conquest, it belonged, as a berewick or hamlet. The name then was "Claiton," probably derived from the substratum of clay which underlies the surface. After the Conquest its lord paramount was Ilbert de Lacy, who "came over" with William the Norman at the time of the Invasion, and had allotted to him a slice of country reaching from Pontefract to Blackburn in Lancashire, comprising one hundred and fifty manors, of which Clayton was one. This may be considered a moderate day's work for one who is described as belonging to a tribe of adventurers, many of whom "brought little else with them than a suit of chain armour, a lance, and a few hungry followers." After being severed from Bolton, the manor came into the possession of the Hortons, of Horton, through a grant of six oxgangs of land from Robert de Lacy, lord of the manor of Bradford, to Hugh Stapleton, afterwards Horton. This would be about 1160. Another family named Clayton also had large possessions in the township. In 1316, Hugh de Leventhorp (of Leventhorp, near Thornton) is mentioned as lord of Clayton as well as of Horton. The manor then descended to the Lacies, of Cromwellbottom, by marriage, and afterwards it passed by purchase to two maiden ladies named Midgley, of Scholemoor, the price being about £1000. In 1798 the manor was bought by Richard Hodgson, who devised it to his niece, Sarah Jowett. At her death, in 1840, her estates passed to her cousin, George Baron, and, after a series of litigations, to the present owner, James Atkinson Jowett, Esq., the present lord of the manor, who, however, owns little of the land in Clayton. Messrs. Foster, of Queensbury, having purchased freely within the past few years, are the largest proprietors, and other owners are Mr. F. S. Powell, Mr. Bower, &c. Until very recently the devisees of Dr. Crowther, of Wakefield, owned many farms in the township, but in 1873 a sale of the old family property took place, and the various lots offered readily passed into other hands. The disposal of the Crowther estate was without doubt a fortunate circumstance for Clayton, and it has already shown signs of benefit.

From an old town's book in the possession of Mr. John Andrews, we copy a few interesting items of town's affairs in the seventeenth

and eighteenth centuries. In January, 1660, the hamlet was assessed in the sum of £3 12s. 10d. "for the armey and navey, and also the sum of £1 10s. 8d. for a robbery at Elland of calfs, and £1 2s. for defraying other charges in ye hamlitt, in all being three double lays (or rates) of the sum of £6 6s. Assessed by Joseph Armitage, John Midgley, Isaac Hollings and Edward Akeroyd." Another item runs—"Received of John Mortimer, whych he did collect more than what was dew to his Majestie for shipmoney, 13s. John Midgley, Isaac Hollings, John Hirst." A year's account for the poor averaged about as follows; the date is 1702 :—"Wm. Sharp, overseer, in account :—His receipts, £39 os. 8d. ; his disbursements, £36 5s. 5d." The highway account for the same period was a much less burdensome item to the rate-payers. Thus, "Robert Jub, surveyor of highways of Clayton, received £1 11s. 10d. ; disbursed 9s. 9d." The ancient document from which we quote contains many references to Heaton, which at that time formed part of the township, but in July, 1701, there is a memorandum to the following effect :—"At a quarter sessions holden at the town of Leeds, it was ordered that the town of Heaton and the town of Clayton should maintaine their poore severally for the space of twentie and one yeares from Easter last past without being accountable eityer to ye other, being a petition from both hamlets desiring the said order, which order is at this present in keeping of me,—John Hirst." Among the items in 1711 is the following, Wm. Smith being churchwarden :—"Spent at visitation, for bread and wine, 1s. 3d. ; paid for walling chapel, 6d. (Clayton contributed one part towards the expenses of Thornton church, or chapel) ; paid for Mr. Farrand's dinner at Thornton, 6d. ; spent when Vicar of Bingley preached, 2d." Other payments of similar amount were paid to Bradford church. The above ancient book contains the transactions in town's affairs from 1656 to 1716, the names principally occurring besides those given above being those of John Mortimer, John Jowett, John Milner, Robert Handworth, Joseph Handworth, Thomas Stoddall, Richard Pollard, Abraham Naylor, and John Cowgill.

In another document we have constables' accounts of expenses at inquests, from which it appears that a jury who could write their names could only be got together by summoning two or three from each of the surrounding townships. We must not be too hasty in drawing comparisons here. It is only a short time since the writer was present at an inquisition, not a hundred miles away (but not in Clayton be it said), where of the "good men and true" who had been summoned three were unable to sign their names. In 1731 the assessors for land-tax were John Ramsden and Jas. Warburton, and the collector

Daniel Hobkin. Coming to the beginning of the present century we find that in 1803 the total amount raised for rates of all kinds was £389 14s. 6d., the amount in the pound being 7s. A sale of township land took place in 1870, which realised £4600, such sum going in reduction of the poor-rate, which in 1875 was 1s. 4d. in the pound.

Clayton, in the eyes of a Claytonian, may be considered a very Arcadia, and no doubt it is. There is, however, an absence of tastefully-decked garden plots and greenery, which hinders it in a measure from being a pretty place, and for which there is no explanation except in the want of taste or inclination in its inhabitants. Although there has undoubtedly been a scarcity of modern "villa" residences in Clayton, yet with a railway in progress this must in time be otherwise. Already an extensive piece of ground has been laid out, and many building plots are in the market for this purpose. In the phraseology of the district, the township "reyks" from Sam's Mill at Thiefscore Bridge to Paul Speak's at Mountain in one direction, and from Bobby Green to Clayton Beck in another, thus including varying altitudes from 500 feet to 1200 feet above sea level. As before stated, the village proper stands on the table land, while high above it, looking in comparison very bleak and cold, are the ancient settlements of Clayton Heights, Old Dolphin, Scarlet Heights, and a portion of Queensbury. Within a stone's throw of each other and from Scarlet Heights, are Van Dieman's Land and Greenland. The origin of the latter name arose from one of Richard Wharton's men saying many years ago, "It's as cowl as Greenland."

Taking a slight survey of the village, it might be noticed that a good road, branching from the junction of Pasture Lane and Lidget Lane, encircles the village, and that there are outlets Bradford, Queensbury, and Thornton-wards. If, under the recent authorities, the roads are now generally good, we are reminded that this was not always so. Up to 1845 many of them were but so many by-paths of ruts and stepping-stones. The old part of the village is clearly traceable both by name and surroundings. We have around the open space before Clayton House,—Town-gate, Town-bottom, Town-syke, and Town-end, all indicative of this being the nucleus. Village greens are rare oases in the neighbourhood of Bradford, and with them have vanished Maypoles and poles greasy, but Town-gate is just such a place as it might be imagined once resounded with the merriment evoked from village sports. During 1876 the Town-gate was much improved by throwing into it the triangular piece of ground near the centre. Close by is the site of the old Workhouse, but the building has been converted into cottages. During its reconstruc-

tion traces of an older and more pretentious habitation were visible in the carved panelling of the interior, and ornamental stonework outside. This place was the refuge for the poor of the township only, and they were afterwards removed to Clayton Heights. Clayton is now honoured by having within its district the Union Workhouse, which previously, when the North Bierley Union was formed, existed at Thackley, near Idle. The present erection was built in 1858 at a cost of over £10,000, to accommodate about 250 paupers. The situation is commanding enough, but the building stands too close under the hill side to be seen to advantage. Ascending to the village we note three places of worship abutting upon the main street, these being the Church, the Baptist Chapel, and the Wesleyan Chapel; also the National and Baptist Schools, and another older building dating from 1819, which is known as the Village School.

“Here in his noisy mansion skilled to rule,
The village master taught his little school.”

Some well-to-do Bradford citizens have to thank this same humble academy for what book-learning they began life with. The old school has a history which may be given in a few sentences. It appears that at the beginning of the century the “denominations” were too feeble to erect buildings of their own, and worshipped respectively thus:—the Baptists went to Queenshead, the Churchmen to Thornton, the Wesleyans as far as Birstal and Whichfield Chapel, Shelf, and the Independents to Kipping. In 1819, however, the old school was built by public subscription as a weekday and Sunday school, and as a preaching place for all denominations, Dicky Hodgson, then lord of the manor, generously giving the promoters leave to appropriate as much land as they required. The building was for many years the abode of “brotherly love,” the Sunday scholars being taught alike by members of all the sects, while on Sunday evenings it was tenanted in turn by each of the denominations—Church, Baptist, Wesleyan, and Independent. Some contention arose about 1851 owing to the absence of title deeds, and a supposed intention of the Episcopalians to get possession of the building. The old school has now, however, been superseded by more pretentious rivals, and is seldom tenanted. A little higher up the street is another piece of township property, which we trust the inhabitants will give a jealous eye to, namely, the three or four acres of open space now enclosed as a cricket ground. This is something like a village green, and being situated in the best position in the village, around which modern Clayton will probably develope, it is worthy of being protected against possible encroachments. Whilst speaking of township property we may here allude to another valuable

estate not far distant, and which has all the advantage of being enclosed in a "ring fence," namely, the Pinfold! Alas for the perquisites of ancient beadledom! Clayton quadrupeds know of better quarters than a fodderless pinfold, and won't get lost. The present custodian (who, by the way, is of the same name as a once-dreaded Bradford official) tells us that his three offices of pinder, byelaw-man, and court-leet constable only bring him in sixpence per year!

Another institution of some note in former days we cannot now record among the things that are, as it has "gone to the dogs," but he needs not be an old Claytonian to remember the Clayton Harriers, and the imposing spread made by John Hirst, the "mighty hunter," and his following on the way to the "throwing off" rendezvous. But *Tempora mutantur!* The slopes of Pasture Lane no longer resound with the music emitted from a score of hairy throats, as in the time when the kennels close by were tenanted. The harriers were kept by the Hirst family, and were quartered on the tenantry when not hunting.

The custom of "riding the boundary" seems to be falling into disuse now, but it is an old custom, and many in Clayton were witnesses of its observance in 1835 and 1860. On the former occasion Miss Jowett, the then lady of the manor, was the chief personage, and a most important part of the ceremony (at least to the spectators) was the squandering of money at the different boundary stones, where, it may be imagined, a grand scramble took place. If the boundary was faithfully ridden now, some slight inconvenience might occur in crossing the sixty feet depth of water contained in the reservoir now being constructed on Horton Bank!

After this slight survey of Clayton proper, we must ascend to the elevated region called Clayton Heights, or the Old Dolphin. The Old Dolphin public-house was in olden times a "baiting" house for stage coaches, stage waggons, &c. Previous to that, and before a public-house was established there, it was used weekly by a company of fish traders on their way from Leeds to the Halifax market, and on Thomas Hirst procuring a licence for it he gave it the name of Dolphin. It was occupied previous to 1800 by Richard Wharton, and afterwards by Peter, his son, who, however, left it and opened a house at the other extremity of Queensbury, nearer to Halifax, which he called the New Dolphin.

The Old Dolphin Wesleyan Chapel was built in 1806, chiefly through the instrumentality and liberality of Mr. and Mrs. Hirst, of Low House. The Hirsts have for nearly three centuries been the principal residential family of Clayton, and are now represented by Mr. Joseph Hirst,

Lieut.-Colonel H. S. Hirst, Thomas and Arthur Hirst, sons of the late Thomas Hirst, of Low House, the two former being proprietors of Low House Brewery. Lieut.-Col. Hirst (who lives at Westwood) has commanded the 3rd West York Rifle Volunteers (Bradford) since 1862. Low House, formerly known as Bright-waters, has been the residence of this family since 1618, and in 1638 it became their own property. It is now occupied by the seventh generation of the family. It may fairly be said that the worsted trade, both spinning and weaving, had its origin, so far as this township is concerned, at Bright-waters. Old Dolphin Chapel is a place of some veneration to many who do not now inhabit the Heights. Within its spacious graveyard many of the "rude forefathers of the hamlet" sleep, and at few places could better testimony be procured of the stubbornness with which the shocks of Old Time are resisted than in a stroll through the graveyard at Old Dolphin. Without moving from the footpath we read on one tombstone the ages of three Whaleys, of Syke, respectively 89, 86, and 84 years. Another stone is in memory of Mary Ackroyd, of Littlemoor, aged 93; another of Hannah Tempest, aged 92; and the district is just lamenting the decease of its "oldest inhabitant," namely, "Aby Awmbler," of Bobby Green, aged 93. These are but representatives of a far larger list that might be given. In the chapel are three tablets side by side, one being to Lydia, wife of Daniel Hopkin, aged 85; another to Susannah, wife of Jonas Barker, aged 81; and the third to a great pillar of the old chapel, named John Whitaker, aged 84. He was a member for fifty-one years, trustee for thirty-four years, and chapel steward for twenty-eight years. He outlived four wives whose names precede his. On another wall of the chapel there is a tablet to the wife of Richard Wharton, aged 87. While making these observations we cultivate the acquaintance of the sexton, and find him an inexhaustible store-house of local information, past and present. As we listened to his voluminous details,

"Still the wonder grew,
That one small head could carry all he knew."

But space forbids that we should chronicle all the quaint sayings and doings of the Sams o' Wills o' Bob o' Doad Firths, &c., &c., coming within his recollection, to say nothing of their genealogy. We, however, have distinct remembrance of "Sewing Sarah" and "Jenny Holder," two Clayton Heights tradesmen; of "Blind Peter," who raced the Halifax mail coach to Leeds, *and beat it*; of old Mary Ackroyd, named above, who, in her 92nd year, got in a load of coals, whitewashed the house, and "ran the cat out of breecath" all in one day; and of a certain fortune-teller, of Yews Green, who, although he professed to

describe the whereabouts of any property that might have been stolen, "couldn't tell who had stolen his own hens!" Leaving the old sexton to complete his arrangements for the "sitting up" which was to come off on the Sunday following, we reluctantly declined an invitation to attend on that occasion—reluctantly, inasmuch as we should enjoy once again a ceremonial which is fast receding from town life into the remoter country districts. A Wesleyan school was opened on January 9th, 1876, in Stocks Lane, having cost £912.

The village of Clayton has for probably a hundred years been noted for worsted weaving, and, like other surrounding villages, it has experienced the varying changes which that craft has undergone. In the days of the hand-loom Claytonians were esteemed good workpeople, and as steam power came in weavers from Clayton could always "get a loom." From Mr. John Milner, a well-known and respected inhabitant, whose recollection carries him back even before the present century, we have gleaned many particulars referring to the early trade of the district. In his young days of course the "song of steam" was not heard boastfully proclaiming—

"I manage the furnace, the mill and mint,
I carry, I spin, I weave,"

but instead, the various processes were carried on by hand in almost every house in the village. The kinds of worsted stuffs then made were almost entirely ribbed calimancoes, tammies, and wildbores—a species of camlet. These were generally possessed of very durable qualities, warranted to last a lifetime, but the pay for weaving them was never commensurate with their durability. The process of weaving was primitive enough, the main art consisting in the skill with which the shuttle was thrown across the piece. About 1810 the "picking stick," an instrument to throw the shuttle with less labour, came into use, the principle of which we now have in the steam power-loom. As to the "finishing" process of olden times, calimancoes were "singed" by being passed over a framework of candles! Of the weft used we may say that scarcely two hanks were alike, and they were sorted with a degree of nicety corresponding to the judgment of the workman. The master weavers, like those to whom they gave out work, were, as a rule, hard workers and exceedingly frugal; some of them trudged out of the village with a "pack" on their backs, which they displayed in the market-rooms at certain public-houses at Bradford, while others had business connections with the merchants at Leeds and Wakefield. The Old Piece Hall at Bradford was then in its heyday, and it was no uncommon occurrence for Clayton "pieces" to be waylaid at the entrance to the town, and bought up before reaching that palatial repository.

About the beginning of the present century wages became miserably small, 5s. a piece being about the price, and a "piece i' t' wick" was considered good work. The spinners did not average above 6d. a day. It must not be overlooked that work had to be fetched and returned when finished in those days, and many a weary tramp to Fawcett's, at Bradford, and Akroyd's, at Halifax, was the result. If the remuneration of the operatives of that period was small, their requirements were simple. Oat-meal porridge and "leather dicks" generally sufficed for the inner and outer man, and the latter very durable garment continued for a long time in favour. It would be quite refreshing to put eyes upon one now, and at the period of which we are speaking they were somewhat of a puzzle to outsiders. We are told of one person who visited the wilds of Clayton remarking that "he never saw so many shoemakers in a town before."

The more recent episodes of the trade may be quickly passed over. In 1822 steam power came in, and after an anxious transitional period had been passed, renewed life was imparted to the trade. The introduction of cotton warps in 1834 gave more "bread to the eaters," and the beneficent provisions of the Factory Act brought "healing in their wings" for many acknowledged deficiencies. Up to 1840, however, worsted pieces were still woven by hand in the villages around, but the poor weavers had a hard struggle against that "never-tired, all-powerful drudge, the steam-engine." The small manufacturers who gave out work were "little removed from above the abject state of poverty which prevailed among their 'hands,' and as their own families grew up they instinctively exchanged the domestic loom for the labour of the neighbouring mills." Many of them, however, having a "bit o' land" to fall back upon, struggled on rather than leave the track trod by their forefathers. The original trade has not even yet died out. We are almost tempted to write, would that it had! In pursuing our inquiries in Clayton we passed a small row of cottages, from one of which the thud and click of a hand-loom proceeded, and we ventured in. The shades of evening had deepened almost into darkness, but within

"A weaver sat by the side of his loom,
A-flinging the shuttle fast."

The worker was an old man sitting with his back to the door, and what little light there was peered through a small window upon the loom. The house was clean and tidy, and its occupant of a cheerful turn, although we soon found out that he had lived by himself for a considerable period. After extracting from him the fact that he had "wovven" for sixty years, and had done work for such Goliaths in the

trade as the Salts and Fosters, the old man informed us that he now wove moreens for a man at Allerton, and that there were three or four others in the village similarly engaged. The loom being now entirely shrouded in darkness, the ancient weaver said, after fastening some ends, "Theer, I can see no longer; I think I'll drop it." "Well," we interposed, "and how much have you earned to-day?" "Wha, abaat eightpence." "But that surely isn't an ordinary day's work, is it?" "Yus; if I addle ninepence I dew weel, but I'st hev to work lat." Four shillings a week, or with overtime four-and-sixpence! A remark not complimentary to mankind generally was struggling to find expression, but we put another question—"Well, then, you have some other means besides what you earn?" "Nay, but I've some gooid dowters; one on 'em nobbud charges me ninepence i' t' week for my breead an' bits o' things. I dew vary weel. I've nivver taen a hawpenny o' t' taan brass yet, an' I'll try to dew witha'at if I can." "God bless them poor fowk," wrote one who knew them well; and "God bless such poor fowk's dowters," was our heartfelt expression on leaving the old moreen-weaver's cheerful fireside.

The present generation, like their predecessors, are pre-eminently a manufacturing community, but the facilities for obtaining employment in the village have never kept pace with the disposition to work, and besides the inconvenience and hardship of great numbers having to tramp out of the village every morning the year round, the village itself has suffered a serious drawback. Notwithstanding that they are thus at a disadvantage with regard to work, very few can be induced to exchange the homestead at Clayton for a town dwelling. There are five worsted mills in the township at the present time. The first built was at Mountain, now belonging to Messrs. Paul Speak & Son; the next was at Hole Bottom, then one up at the Heights, and another of Mr. Milner's at Riva Syke followed. Messrs. Benn & Co. then built their mill and shed at Coghill, the spinning factory soon after receiving a substantial enlargement, and the same energetic firm have since added a large shed. Messrs. Foster's works are on the outskirts of Clayton. The founder of this well-known firm commenced business here and has lived until recently within the borders of the township, but a description is given of these works in our notes on Queensbury.

There are many stone quarries in Clayton township, consequently many quarriers are employed. The quality of the stone ranks very high for durability and appearance—ashlar and flags of almost any dimensions in size or thickness being readily procurable. A big "diamond," weighing about fourteen tons, was got out of Fall Delph a short time ago. There are three collieries in the township, but only the

coal known as the Halifax bed is worked. There are also two breweries, that of Messrs. J. & H. S. Hirst, at Low House, and Albion Brewery, Mr. Joseph Hardy's.

Since the formation of the Local Board in 1866, many building plans have been passed, chiefly for cottage property. The Board have also undertaken two other important works—gas and water. Previous to 1873, although gasworks in the hands of a private company had been established since 1865, the streets had nightly remained under a cloud, save when the moon, that friend of local boards in general, chose to shine. The principal portion of the township was lighted by gas for the first time on Christmas Eve, 1873. The other important work is still in process of being carried out. Up to the present time the village has been dependent for water for domestic use upon springs, these being chiefly the Holt's Well, Low Well and Spring Well, but a more convenient supply is to be obtained from the Bradford Corporation. The Local Board are now engaged in laying down service pipes and constructing works for this water supply, which will involve a cost of about £9000. Mr. J. Lumley, C.E., is the engineer of the works. Portions of both the two reservoirs belonging to the Bradford Corporation also fall within the Clayton boundary, and together they will have a water capacity of 218,000,000 gallons. Both reservoirs were constructed from the designs of Mr. C. Gott, C.E. Water for the service of the reservoirs will be brought from the Stubden Valley. Another important undertaking in which Clayton is more immediately concerned is the new line of railway from Bradford to Thornton. The station at Clayton will be situate near the end of Pasture Lane, and close to the village. There can be little doubt that with the opening of the new railway will follow a corresponding development of the village generally. As previously hinted, no long time will probably elapse before town-residents will drift Clayton-wards in increasing numbers, where they may within a ten minutes' ride of Bradford, breathe unpolluted air direct from the moorlands. The Local Board have in anticipation of the session of Parliament, 1876, given notice of an application to apply for a Provisional Order for making street improvements within the district, and to apply for borrowing powers for the estimated cost, amounting to £6500.

The members of the Local Board are—Messrs. Thomas Jowett (chairman), Asa Briggs, O. Wilman, W. Sutcliffe, J. Benn, J. Hudson, E. Ridings, and C. Ward. The clerk is Mr. B. Ashton; the collector, Mr. John Andrews; and the medical officer, Mr. E. E. Rawson. The population comprised within the Local Board district is 4800, and the rateable value £9031.

Apart from its religious and educational agencies Clayton does not boast many institutions of a secular character. It has a Co-operative Society, with a Penny Savings Bank in connection with it, and also a branch of the Yorkshire Penny Bank, held at the National School. Many savings are, however, deposited at Bradford. There are also Liberal and Conservative Clubs, and a Cricket Club. Political and local elections are warmly contested at Clayton, but too good-humouredly to interfere with good feeling. As in many surrounding villages, choral singing is much practised, and in some families especially "music runs i' t' blood." Temperance has also many adherents. The Baptist Chapel, built in 1830, is the oldest in the village. The Baptists have also handsome school premises, built in 1871, at a cost of £2200. The Wesleyan Chapel was built in 1834. A fine organ was introduced in 1864, at a cost of £400. Previous to the erection of St. John's Church, in 1849, services were held in the old Maltkiln, the Rev. W. Kelly, now of Shipley, being the clergyman. Ground for the new edifice was given by John Hirst, Esq. In the church is a stained glass window of great beauty, in memory of Thomas Hirst, Esq., of Low House, Clayton, and Sarah, his wife. The window is, architecturally speaking, of the decorated English style of about 1300. For richness of colouring and admirable grouping of the different figures, the window is considered to be one of the best examples of the artist, Mr. F. Barnet, of Edinburgh. The National Schools were opened in October, 1859, and consist of mixed boys' and girls' schools and teacher's house, forming, with the parsonage and church opposite, an imposing pile of ecclesiastical buildings in the centre of the village street. The original cost of the schools was about £1700, but an addition of an infants' school has recently been made. There are Sunday schools connected with each of the places of worship, and the senior classes are especially well attended.

Another institution should be noticed here, as it plays an important part in the life of the village. Its meetings are frequent, and are certainly the best attended, attracting all "sects," and invariably ending in the best of good fellowship. It has no fixed meeting-place, and holds its reunions alike at church and chapel. Neither has it a stated name, but is generally known as "t' Tea Drinking," and those who attend are called "partakers." Commend us to a good tea-party at Clayton!

Clayton has an interest in Sagar's Charity, which in 1665 consisted of a small close of land value £7 per annum, which in 1798 was sold to the late Mr. Richard Fawcett for 1000 guineas. Upon it he built Westbrook House, Horton Road, Bradford. The trustees then bought Highgate Farm, Clayton, for £1350, borrowing the difference,

and this farm was let for £45 annually. The borrowed money in course of time was repaid, and the funds of the charity have been increased by a sum of £500 from easements to the Bradford Corporation and sale of clay. The trustees have since sold two acres of Highgate Farm, near the intended station on the railway at Clayton, with the consent of the Charity Commissioners, for the sum of £1840. Thus this charity, through management and increased value of land, will be increased to about £120 a year, instead of £7 in 1798. This sum is divisible under Mr. Sagar's will, after paying the "minister of orthodox faith" of Thornton Chapel £1 annually, into five equal parts, and is given to the resident poor of Allerton, Clayton, Denholme, Thornton, and Wilsden. The late Mr. Stocks, of Halifax, solicitor, was for many years clerk to the trustees of the charity; afterwards Mr. James Franklin, who continued so up to his death in November, 1875. Mr. H. J. Franklin has lately been appointed clerk.

The township has also an equal right with Thornton and Allerton to send youths to the remodelled Thornton Grammar School.

"Going Queensbury way?" is a familiar inquiry that may be heard any day on the New Inn frontage at Bradford, and we may as well ascend the Queensbury 'bus and for a small consideration be conveyed over the four miles of road which lie between that place and Bradford, without having to "get out and push," which was not an uncommon occurrence to those who travelled by the old Leeds and Rochdale coach. And no wonder: for betwixt Bradford and Queensbury there is an ascent of nearly 900 feet. Noting little during the first mile or so, except that the works of the Bradford and Thornton Railway are proceeding vigorously, and that Great Horton looks as clean and orderly as ever, we ascend to Horton Bank Top. At its foot diverges the narrow road which was the main high road to Halifax seventy years ago, and where the "pushing" process commenced. The new portion round the face of the hill was opened about 1807. Bank Top, whatever its name implies, does not mean the top of the bank. Higher and higher still we ascend, passing the huge reservoir works, through Old Dolphin and Scarlet Heights, leaving Greenland and Van Die-man's Land to the right, until we enter the village street of Queensbury, 1100 feet above sea level.

From this altitude Queensbury may be said to look down upon the rest of the local world around it, and so it does in more respects than one. Its chief element of superiority, however, is commercial. It can boast of being the seat of one of the largest worsted manufactories in the kingdom, the chief specialty of which is alpaca and mohair. It

may also be allowed to indulge somewhat as being a self-made place, and having "risen with the times." We have before us a plan of Queensbury as it was in the beginning of the century, upon which we can only count thirty-nine blocks and isolated dwellings, two-thirds of which were one-storeyed buildings, which would accommodate at the outside 250 inhabitants. Now its population is estimated at about 7500. Its interests, however, are so closely allied with those of the immense manufacturing concern called Black Dike Mills, that our attention is naturally first drawn towards that place and its founder, Mr. John Foster. The useful influence which a man of energy and industry may exercise in a neighbourhood has seldom found a more fitting illustration than in the experience of Queensbury; and we believe it would be difficult to find a community so thoroughly imbued with the spirit of their employer, who

"With reason firm and temperate will,
Endurance, foresight, strength and skill,"

has built up their fortunes with his own. The village is undoubtedly a model of sobriety, morality, and industry. Before giving our readers a "run through" the works at Black Dike, it may be interesting to trace the connection of the Fosters with Queensbury, and especially of that member of the family through whose foresight and enterprise the place has become one of the most thriving in the county.

Originally the family came of a line of yeomen long resident in the township of Thornton, and numerous representatives are interred at Thornton Church. Mr. Jonas Foster, the father of Mr. John Foster, lived on his own farm at Moor Royd Gate, near Headley, and, besides farming, was also a colliery owner. John, his son, was born in 1798, and after being educated at Thornton Grammar School, assisted his father, from whom he learnt those business habits which he turned to such account in after life. He next went to Brookhouse School, near Ovenden, where he formed an acquaintance with Mr. Jonathan Akroyd, which afterwards ripened into friendship. In 1819, being then twenty-one years of age, Mr. Foster married the daughter of Mr. Abram Briggs, removed to Low Fold, near Queensbury, and having learnt the worsted business, he now commenced on his own account as a manufacturer. Eight years later, viz., in 1827, he built Prospect House, and went there to reside, being even at that time a considerable employer of hand-loom labour. The principal descriptions of goods made were lastings (well called "everlastings") and damasks. The damask trade, although of some prominence at that period, was in its infancy so far as the manufacturing process was concerned. A youth, called a "drawboy," stood at the end of the loom,

and drew the leashes necessary to form the figure once every four picks woven by the weaver, the design being thus continued to the end of the piece. "Dobbies" were also considered a great stride in ingenuity, and were used for weaving figures and stripes in fancy dress goods. The Jacquard loom has superseded these very primitive processes. Prospect House was at that time aptly named, and the paternal homestead is still an object of pride to the younger members of the firm, with whose future "prospects" it had doubtless much to do. In 1832, Mr. Foster took Cannon Mill, at Great Horton, for spinning, and in 1835 built Black Dike old mill upon the site of a farmstead of that name which had belonged to Mrs. Foster's family since 1779. The building of this factory was thought a great undertaking for that period, but Mr. Foster had already laid the foundations of a large business, and his plans were matured accordingly. At that time he was the largest employer of hand-loom weavers in the neighbourhood, giving out work to no fewer than 700 persons. The number of spindles running in the old mill was from 3000 to 4000, producing perhaps some 1200 gross of yarn per week. The number of spindles in the present establishment is now 50,000, and the production of yarn upwards of 12,000 gross per week. The motive power was supplied by a 25-horse engine. In 1836 Mr. Foster introduced power-looms, still retaining his hand-loom weavers, and many of these were allowed to work out what remained to them of working life under the old system, or had employment found for them about the mill.

A new order of things, however, was fast supplanting the old. The Bradford trade has been essentially one of eras, the most important being perhaps that of the introduction of cotton warps, which were destined to essentially change the character of the worsted stuffs woven here, and give the manufacture an extension unknown before. A little later another era set in, namely, the introduction of alpaca and mohair into the fabrication of worsted stuffs. Various impediments obstructed the full development of these textile fabrics in the trade of the district, and among the foremost of those who strove to overcome them was Mr. Foster, whose connection with the alpaca trade dates from 1837. By that patient plodding which had always been a chief characteristic of his nature, he, to use a Lincolnism, "pegged away," and the gigantic establishment of which he was the founder is the result. But this is anticipatory. At the commencement of 1842, Mr. William Foster, his eldest son, and now the senior partner of the firm, was taken into partnership, and gave himself with characteristic vigour towards the further development of the concern, the firm being then called Messrs. John Foster & Son. The years 1841-42 will long be

remembered as disastrous ones in the Bradford trade. A wave of depression set in from Lancashire which soon overflowed this part of Yorkshire, and Bradford became the scene of alarming Chartist riots, plug-drawing, and the like. During the first-named year, Mr. Foster had built a large shed in front of what is called the Old Mill, and the establishment was visited at the close of 1842 by a large army of rioters on their way from Halifax to Bradford. Fortunately they did little damage, and after easing the community of what provisions were come-at-able, they passed on in their journey of destruction.

Notwithstanding the hard times which generally prevailed, Black Dike grew in dimensions, and in 1843 500 looms were at work in the weaving shed—at that time one of the largest in the district. The year 1846 and the one following were principally noted for bad trade and another panic, consequent on the wild speculation in railways; but the firm at Black Dike fortunately passed through these unscathed, and in the former year erected the Shed Mill. The goods special to the establishment had now become famous; the reaction following the stagnation of 1847 gave an impetus to the fancy trade; and in 1849-50 another era set in—the era of general prosperity. Into the full tide of this prosperity, which “taken at the flood led on to fortune,” the firm at Black Dike were fully prepared to launch. Building had been almost unceasingly carried on, and in 1850 the large block of warehouses, &c., were remodelled. In addition to the home establishment, Netherton Mill, Wellington Mill, and Ramsden’s Mill (at Canal Side, Bradford), were also taken, and worked by the firm. The Great Exhibition of 1851, at which the firm took a first prize for manufactured fabrics in alpaca and mohair, brought their goods into increased reputation. At the same great World’s Fair they also took the gold medal for fine yarns, and they have since done a yearly increasing business in the export yarn trade. To the combined display made by the Bradford Chamber of Commerce at the Paris Exhibition of 1855, Messrs. Foster contributed largely, and their goods were considerably admired, whilst similar honours were accorded to them for their contribution to the Bradford trophy in the London Exhibitions of 1862 and 1871.

These repeated triumphs naturally brought fresh “grist to the mill,” and in 1865-66 the most important additions yet made were entered upon; these being the large combing shed adjoining the spinning mill, and what is known as the Victoria Mill—an immense block which adjoins the previously-built Shed Mill. The machinery in these buildings commenced running in 1865. From the year 1858, however, an entire remodelling of the premises had been going on,

involving the laying down of extensive boiler plant, &c. Gasworks, to supply not only the mill but the village besides, had been previously constructed, and were subsequently enlarged. Other additions and reconstructions, such as the ornamental boundary and entrance gates, fire brigade house, yarn warehouse, grease, dye and genappe works, and workshops, were also added; a large piece warehouse, forming a handsome frontage to the main road, being the latest addition.

From this hasty enumeration of the various extensions some idea may be formed of the size of Black Dike Mills, and to this we may add that in the aggregate the works contain about thirteen acres of flooring. Although built at various periods, the premises are admirably arranged, and from the adjoining roads the pile has an imposing effect. Especially is this the case with the principal elevation, the Victoria and Shed Mills, which present a frontage of about 475 feet. The two immense sheds for combing and weaving lie between these and the principal entrance gates, while the remaining offices, warehouses, reservoirs, &c., are disposed in the rear. Messrs. Foster have been their own builders, having, in addition to the premises already named, large works for that purpose. The earlier erections were also planned by Mr. John Foster, but latterly Messrs. Milnes & France have been the architects.

Having thus sketched the exterior aspect of this immense manufacturing concern, and introduced such remarks as were necessary to explain its rise and progress, we propose to take a hasty glimpse of the interior. Remembering the thirteen acres of flooring, and the "getting up stairs" necessary to compass this area, we decline the generous offer to be shown the complete process of manufacture, involving, as it would, our making the entire round of the premises, and being the observed of some 3500 workpeople, including probably 2000 of Queensbury's fair ones! We first look into the principal offices, which are approached from a colonnade, and soon discover indications of the extensive business carried on there. The large counting-house is all astir with clerks turning over immense ledgers, which from their dimensions must represent a "mint o' money." One individual is much interested in a very stout volume, fully a foot thick, labelled "invoices," which we covetously hoped were all payable to us! As we wait a moment, our virtue is put still further to the test, for two young gentlemen pass us bearing between them on a large mahogany tray just about as much "filthy lucre" as they can carry—the genuine article in gold and silver. We let them pass unconcernedly. If we had followed the glittering heap bodily to its destination, we might have seen it dispersed into the hands of hundreds of Queensbury bread-winners, for it

is pay-day. The expedition with which this process is effected may be imagined when we state that 800 workpeople are paid and dismissed within a quarter of an hour ! The large room is furnished with mahogany fittings, &c., and has a rich ceiling overhead. On the floor above it there is a handsome suite of apartments for the principals, correspondents, &c. On this floor also is the telegraph room, which is in direct communication with the central telegraph office at Bradford, and with Messrs. Foster's Bradford offices, in Well Street.

Proceeding next into the yard, we "begin at the beginning" by first visiting the premises where the manipulation of the raw material is carried on. The Wool Warehouse is a building 320 feet in length and six storeys in height, flanked by another warehouse for "tops." These are situated at the rear of the mill and offices, and are fire-proof. Being conducted to the ground floor of the wool warehouse, and, tapping at the door, which a civil person in checker opens, we step inside, and in a twinkling the sixth floor appears to come down to us ! On asking to see the good geni by whose aid we had been thus quickly transported, a closet door was opened, and we were pointed to a compact arrangement of cranks and pistons working noiselessly away, apparently indifferent to our thanks for its courtesy. On the top floor is a large stock of English and other wools, and even at this elevation we find evidences of that cleanliness which pervades the whole establishment. Descending to the floor below we come to one of the chief specialties manufactured, namely, the alpaca wool. Here and in the storeys below about 160 woolsorters are employed, and we detect little difference in the atmosphere to that of an ordinary workshop. Among the workmen are some admirable specimens of humanity, to protect whose under garments no small amount of "brat" is required. There are admirable arrangements for ventilation. Descending still lower we come to the mohair rooms, where another batch of smock-fronted sorters are at work, with practised eye and nimble fingers deftly separating the various qualities of the fleece. It will thus be seen that Messrs. Foster separate the "sheep from the goats" by keeping their produce on different floors. In addition to this we notice another arrangement. The large warehouse is divided midway, the half corresponding to that used by the workmen being kept for storing the particular class of wool sorted on that floor, double sets of iron doors separating the two halves. As we pass through these store-rooms we are amazed at the immense quantity of wool kept in stock. English hogs and wethers, wools from the Iceland Island, the black and brown locks of the Peruvian sheep, and the lustrous Angora goat's hair of Castamboul (said to be the oldest of textile fabrics), meet

us on every hand. By the aid of the good genius of the hoist we are in imagination transported to a truly English scene where, ere they are eased of a cumbrous load,

"The soft fearful people to the pool,
Commit their woolly sides;"

then to the inhospitable islands of the north; away to the rich mine-lands of Peru; and onwards to the plains of Asia Minor. A truly cosmopolitan workshop is this known as Black Dike! But it is time to descend, and this we do to a lower depth still, down among the "noils," whatever they may be. There is a large stock of them, however, and their habitat is a spacious vaulted and fire-proof room under the warehouse. Numerous attendants in checker are transporting these "noils" about in basket perambulators, and we learn that they are the short wools and are for sale. We next look into the "top" warehouse, which happens to be at the bottom, but as it lies in our way we take it, although not in the correct order of route. "Tops," we find out, are very valuable products, and are made to "spin," which seems quite understandable. The warp-dressers have a warehouse to themselves, and seem an easy-going, comfortable lot of men. We almost fancy we could distinguish a warp-dresser from an overlooker anywhere by these characteristics.

Crossing the courtyard to the central entrance of the Victoria Mill, along whose massive front we look with something like awe, we are once more transported without effort to the "drawing" and "roving" departments. We pass first into a room of the mill built in 1846, where the working space is not so liberal as in the Victoria Mill adjoining, which, if that were possible, errs on the side of liberality. This truly palatial edifice is fire-proof from top to bottom, and what is called the attic has a lofty ceiling of arched ironwork. The drawing and roving departments are managed by buxom young women, and a sprinkling besides who we should imagine have "made their market." On the next flat is more drawing and roving, and then we come to the "spinning," the attendant sprites being here called "piecers." Of course these are of a younger order of womankind, and fine healthy specimens they seem. We are introduced here to some very lively young gentlemen who rejoice in the name of "doffers," and who, on a stentorian call of "Side off!" rush like madcaps and take possession of a spinning frame, which they "doff" of all the charged bobbins and quickly replace them with empty ones. In the room below we found another batch of the fraternity waiting for a job, and took a mental photograph of them, which we labelled "Doffers at play." Time, however, will not permit of our tramping the 150 yards in length of this

mill five times over, but we visit most of the various rooms, and find the same characteristics—cleanliness, light, air, and space. The sanitary arrangements throughout are all that could be wished, and at each end of the rooms there is a communicator with the engineer, so that the engines can be instantly stopped in case of accident—fortunately a rare occurrence. The means of egress, too, are ample, by means of stone staircases, and on each landing there is a water shaft with apparatus in case of fire, in addition to the regular fire-extinguishing apparatus. As to the machinery employed it is superfluous to say anything, except that it is kept as “bright as a bell,” and is well protected.

On leaving the Victoria Mill we visit the engine-room, where the magnificent pair of engines built by the Bowling Company are at work, supplying the motive power for the Victoria Mill and combing shed. It is evident that this is the “show-room” of the establishment, and no small amount of pride is manifested by those in charge of it. There is little vibration perceptible, although the fly-wheel before us, over fifty tons in weight, is making thirty revolutions per minute. The two engines are 100 horse-power each, and work on the compound principle up to 1000 indicated horse-power. Two immense stone pillars that would have puzzled a Samson to bear away support the main shafting. Every piece of metal that will take a polish about the immense machines is burnished to the highest degree, and gilding is even introduced to set off the other portions. Passing into the adjoining building—the Combing Shed—we are introduced to a department of great interest to those skilled in some of the more complicated processes of manufacture, for in none have greater improvements been made than in the machinery for combing, carding, and preparing. The shed is of immense size, being about 270 by 210 feet in extent, or nearly 6000 square yards, and is filled with machinery comprising the newest improvements. Some idea may be formed of Messrs. Foster’s requirements when we say that previous to the building of this shed they employed 1500 hand combers. Next to the combing shed is that for washing. Many of the machines we have just left are “Lister’s” and “Noble’s,” but here “Petrie” and “M’Naught” hold sway. The ten self-minding machines at work consume nearly 8000 lbs. of soft soap per week, all of which Messrs. Foster make upon the premises. From the washing the fleeces go to the drying machines, which are gigantic affairs, enclosed in a summer-house kind of framework, with a window here and there, through which the wool or hair can be seen in its slow transit from humidity to dryness. These are Messrs. Foster’s own inventions.

Continuing our irregular round we next look into the Weaving Shed, and it is well we leave this to the last. The shed is perhaps one of the largest in existence, and at the time of our visit 1000 looms were at work, tended by 800 persons. But, oh ! the din ! On entering we perceived no one sound above another, and perhaps this fact accounted for the peculiarity which followed, for it was only on attempting to hold converse with our *cicerone* that we found ourselves reduced to automats. Certainly the din was the most palpable and intense we ever experienced. On leaving, we learn that these looms combinedly are turning out a piece a minute, or at the rate of 2600 yards per hour. We next visit the engines which run the Weaving Shed and the Shed Mill—the first pair of engines to which the M'Naught principle was applied in this country. Although thirty years old they do their work “sweetly,” and are equal to 600 horse-power. Crossing the yard to the Old Mill we make the acquaintance of the original twenty-five horse engine, which is evidently looked upon by those immediately concerned with a sort of veneration. As might be expected, the old friend looks as bright and clean as its more juvenile compeers. The combined motive power in the works is equal to 1700 indicated horse-power.

Extensive as has been the round we have already made there is at least one department yet to visit of equal interest to any, and in these days of lynx-eyed smoke inspectors, perhaps even of still greater moment. We learn that Messrs. Foster have bestowed unlimited time and money not only to burn smoke but to extract the maximum amount of mechanical force out of the minimum quantity of fuel, and they have arrived at a very satisfactory result, although the cost has been a serious one. “More boiler room” has apparently been one chief point aimed at. There are twenty-two boilers, sixteen of these being multitubular. Green's fuel economiser is used, by which the boilers are fed with water at about 250 degrees of heat. Vicar's combined feeder and burner is also in use, with improvements introduced by the firm, and it is a rare occurrence to see more than a thin line of smoke issuing from the adjoining chimney. The coals are shot into the fiery receptacles by means of a tramway that runs over the boilers. We next peep into the grease works—a large building where the refuse of the wool washing is converted into a merchantable article again ; pass through the smiths' and tinnerns' shops—in the latter of which the many ventilators about the works are made ; visit the gas-works, and finally the fire-engines. These safeguards against a destruction that would be terrible in its consequences at Black Dike, are housed in a spacious and handsome building to the right of the

principal entrance gates, and the two engines there contained are named the "Torrent" and the "Deluge." The first-named is a manual engine of great power, and the latter is one of Shand, Mason & Co.'s improved steam fire-engines. The engine-house is furnished with all necessary apparatus, and the members of the brigade are employed on the premises. In addition to these engines a system of fire pipeage and plugs is laid down which, with fixed engines, commands every corner of the premises. The water used about the works is all drawn from Artesian wells, and stored in reservoirs, three of which are situate in the rear of the warehouses. Another is on a higher elevation in the village.

At few manufactories are the workpeople so steadily employed as at Black Dike. Strikes and short-time are unknown, although at times to prevent the latter as many as 50,000 pieces have been stored awaiting better markets. We have already stated that 3500 workpeople are employed, many of these being females, and good wages are earned. If the firm at Black Dike have been considerate employers, it is only just to say that this good feeling has been reciprocated by the generality of the workpeople, numbers of whom have done thirty and forty years' honest work for the wages they have received. Messrs. Foster pay £100,000 a year in wages, consume 15,000 tons of coal, and 15,000 packs of alpaca, mohair, English and other wools in the same period. No wonder that the firm should be such active promoters of a railway to the neighbourhood! They also work their own collieries. The staple manufacture is alpaca, mohair, and worsted, plain and fancy, in all the combinations and varieties possible; and in addition to the home consumption these goods are exported to France, Germany, Russia, Italy, Spain, North and South America, and the Australian colonies. The firm own some 380 cottages in the village, which have been added as the works extended. More of these are still required. The respected head of the firm retired from active participation in the business some years ago, and went to reside at Hornby Castle, which extensive property he had bought. He is now in his seventy-eighth year, and some seven years ago withdrew from the business altogether. For many years previously his sons, William, Jonas, Abram, and John, had been actively engaged in it, and to their tact and business capabilities much of the success which has attended the firm is doubtless owing.

It is near six o'clock as we pass out of the entrance gates of the mill yard, a fact we are made cognisant of by the altered condition of the streets to that we had remarked on entering some hours before. Then, even in the main street, we counted only five persons within

sight. Now, the sound of many feet and the Babel of tongues, as the orderly crowd teems out of the archway, remind us that the previous quiet of the streets will in a moment be transferred to the mill premises, and the huge block, with its deserted rooms, will be left to solitude and—the watchman.

The village of Queensbury is situated on a boldly rising eminence, overlooking Bradford and Halifax, about midway between the two towns, and from this commanding position extensive prospects in all directions are to be obtained. The views are especially fine from Mountain, a lofty summit in the vicinity, 1200 feet above sea level. From this eminence Penyghent and Ingleborough are clearly seen in the north-west, while in an opposite direction the towers of York Minster are observable—weather permitting. The beautiful vale of Shibden and the broader expanse of Bradford-dale are interesting features of the nearer landscape. Antiquarians have found little to interest them in the neighbourhood of Queensbury. A few lingering remnants of names are all that indicate the possession of these moorland heights by the fierce Brigantes. At a more recent period individual enterprise must be credited with the early clearings of this boggy, though elevated, district. In this connection must be mentioned the family of Ambler, who, in the Tithe Commutation of 1558, are put down as paying small sums for their own land in Northowram and Marche. In 1573, John Ambler of Northowram, had to pay 10d. “for four acres and one rode called Ambler Thorne.” The Amblers are still amongst the residents of the neighbourhood, but the Thorn only exists in name.

In regard to its appellation the village has passed through three stages, being originally known as Causewayend, then Queenshead, and latterly by the still more euphonious name of Queensbury. The two former names are understandable enough. As Causewayend we can imagine the village street to have been a wild moorland track, beyond the reach of “highway surveyors” and the inevitable “rates” which follow in their wake, notwithstanding that it was on the main high-road from Hull to Liverpool. It was reserved to the loyalty of a later generation to fix upon it a name which in part it now bears, when it was called after Queen Anne. The name is still perpetuated in an old Queen’s Head Inn. Parochially Queensbury is “nowhere,” being half in Clayton township and half in Northowram, but these imaginary lines have been no hindrance to its growth, and the self-made district has now a separate local government of its own. At the beginning of the present century, the village consisted of about fifty dwellings, many of them one-storeyed, which would accommodate about 250 persons.

Queensbury village, if we may call a place of 7500 inhabitants by that rural cognomen, is intersected by two highroads, the Brighthouse and Denholme Gate and the Bradford and Halifax turnpikes. The latter of these is the more important thoroughfare, and in the old stage-coach times it was more important still. Of course little idea can now be formed of the difficulty of getting, say from the Old to the New Dolphin, the road being in an excellent condition compared with what it was in those days. "Knave Lane" got its name not from the disreputable character of its frequenters, but from the fact that any vehicle which ventured that way was sure to be engulfed to the nave of the wheels. "Old-fashioned winters" too were common to the Queenshead of olden times, and the snows that fell not unfrequently levelled up hedge, dyke, and road. February, 1799, is memorable for an unintermitting tempest of snow, which for twenty hours completely snowed up some of the one-storeyed dwellings, and accumulated around the old Baptist Chapel to the depth of four yards and a half. On April 8, 1858, the snow that fell in the neighbourhood measured in many places thirteen feet in depth. The district abounds in names about each of which a little history might be written, but one must suffice. Scarlet Heights are suggestive of the wars of York and Lancaster. The lofty position, especially valuable as commanding a main road, was taken advantage of by the soldiers of one of the rival factions, from which, however, they were driven into Shibden-dale, where a contest took place. Hence a field in the vicinity got the name of "The Bloody Ing." Doubtless the block of houses now known as "Bloody Row" was built upon a portion of this ing. Coming within another category, as indicating the nature of the soil, are Swamp, Blackmires, Blackshaw, Blackdike, and Harrowhins, the latter being the name of the now beautiful estate of Mr. Wm. Foster, upon which he erected about twenty years ago a handsome residence in the Tudor style. We should imagine that few inclosures could more completely serve to show the triumphs of cultivation than does the estate of Harrowhins.

Queensbury, like Clayton, had, in the very early stages of the worsted trade, become celebrated for its weavers. The descriptions of worsted stuffs made included shalloons, tammies, everlastings, calimancoes, moreens, says, serges, &c., in most of which the Queenshead weavers excelled. The chief mart for the woven pieces was Halifax, which at that time was an important centre, having three sources of trade, viz., woollen, worsted, and cotton. As the present century grew apace, Bradford grew with it, and gradually became the chief seat of the worsted trade, withdrawing this branch from Halifax,

which was undoubtedly too "slow." Queenshead had then many little masters of its own, who gave out work to a large number of handloom-weavers, in addition to the work which came from Halifax. Mr. Jonathan Akroyd, the head of the well-known firm in that town, until a comparatively recent period had a "taking-in room" in the centre of the village street (the house occupied by Mr. Stocks), but the little masters were generally content to use the kitchen or an outhouse for their warehouse. Two representatives of this school of "old masters" may be named in the persons of Mr. David Knowles and Mr. John Foster. The successful career of the latter we have already sketched. Mr. Knowles died last year in his eighty-third year. He was a native of Queensbury, where his father kept the principal inn of the village, a noted house in the old stage-coach days, at present known as the Old Original Queen's Head. He was originally a handloom-weaver, and kept a school, and then began to take in pieces and became a manufacturer, and afterwards a large shopkeeper and manufacturer, employing at one time as many as 800 weavers. Having amassed a considerable fortune, he bought a large extent of property in the locality, which was all sold before his decease, except the house in which he lived, and a small patch of building land in the centre of the village. Another type of the old school was personated by Eli Whiteley. If good times ever came to Eli he refused to see them, for in his judgment they were always "waur and waur."

The worsted factories of Queensbury besides Black Dike are those of Messrs. Paul Speak and Son, of Mountain, and the spinning mill of Mr. Skirrow Leach, at Sandbeds. On the same premises are the machine works of Messrs. Bairstow Brothers.

Thus far we have dwelt principally with the ancient aspect of the village. Modern Queensbury is quite another place. Entering from the Bradford end we find Sandbeds still retaining its name, but instead of the gabled farmsteads which used to stand bleak and isolated, there are rows of modern "back-to-back" cottages stretching for some distance on each side of the principal street, and bearing indisputable evidence of their recent origin, for each street is named after some hero of the Russian campaign of '55-8. The names of Raglan, Cardigan, Campbell, Lyons, and others thus perpetuated will, to the future historian of Queensbury, furnish material for comment upon a disastrous but not inglorious page of English history. All these streets have been built by the firm of Messrs. Foster, wherein are housed a large number of their workpeople. Very few one-storeyed dwellings are now left in the village. Passing up the principal street (which is also a portion of the Halifax road) there are some good houses with gardens in front,

opposite to which is Prospect House, the old family residence of the Fosters. Next come "the Works," previously described, near the principal entrance to which stands the Albert Fountain. This is really a work of art, in the style of the thirteenth century, and was erected by Messrs. Foster in memory of the Prince Consort. The opening of this memorial fountain on the 26th of May, 1863, was observed as a great day at Queensbury, inasmuch as at the same time the name was changed from Queenshead. On the opposite side of the road is the Stag's Head Inn, and a little higher up are the two "publics," the Original Queenshead and the Old Original Queenshead. On a cross road leading to Denholme Gate road there are the General Baptist Chapel and the Hall of Freedom. The latter was built by subscription in 1853, its name pretty well expressing the object for which it was built. A little further still, on the Halifax road, is Holy Trinity Church. It may here be mentioned that when this church was built in 1842, the stone trade of the district, now such an important one, had been so little developed that stone for the new edifice was brought from Thornton Heights and other places. Mem.—Masons' wages were then 2s. 6d. per day.

Holy Trinity Church is a neat Gothic building, with nave, side aisles, chancel, also tower at the west end, and was built in 1843. It has 802 sittings, half of which are free. The parish is only of recent creation, being one of the new parishes formed under Sir Robert Peel's Act, and it is conterminous with the Local Board's district. The living is stated at £300 a year, and is in the patronage of the Bishop of Ripon alternately with the Crown. The present vicar is the Rev. John Carter Hyatt, B.A. The site of the edifice was given by Mr. George Baron, the then lord of the manor, and among the chief contributors to the building fund was Mr. John Foster, who also presented the peal of six bells for the tower. In the south aisle are two stained glass windows, erected by the Foster family, one in memory of the wife of Mr. William Foster, the other in memory of Samuel Briggs Foster, son of Mr. John Foster. There is also another stained glass window in the same aisle, erected by Mrs. Greenwood and her son, in memory of John Greenwood, who was many years churchwarden. On the east wall, to the left of the chancel, there is another beautiful example of the stainer's art in memory of the late Mr. Alfred Foster, M.A., youngest son of Mr. John Foster, and formerly a partner in the firm. The window has been erected by his widow, Mrs. Alice C. Foster. When the present vicar was inducted the congregation was small, but since then it has largely increased, and for some years sittings have been in increasing demand. Before the erection of Holy Trinity, church people went to worship at

Coley, Thornton, and Illingworth. The Sunday school is in a flourishing condition, and there is a Church Institute and reading-room in connection with it.

Dissent has long had a strong hold upon the people of this high-lying district, and in the lower portion of the township of Northowram (of which Queensbury forms part) there is an Independent chapel, founded by the Rev. Oliver Heywood, one of the ejected ministers of 1662, who, previous to that event, had held the neighbouring living of Coley. The chapel has since been rebuilt on a much larger scale. There are, besides this old seat of Nonconformity, other Dissenting chapels, as follow :—The General Baptist, Queenshead ; New Connexion, Albert Street ; Wesleyan, Swamp ; Congregational, Union Croft ; New Connexion, Ambler Thorn ; Primitive Methodist, Round Hill ; Wesleyan Reformers, Mountain. Sunday schools are connected with all of these, and are well attended.

The General Baptist Chapel at Queensbury, of which the Rev. Richard Hardy has been the pastor since 1841, deserves more than a passing notice, as its history may be said to be the history of Queensbury village, and in addition to this it is one of the parent Baptist churches in Yorkshire. In 1771 Dan. Taylor, the then pastor of the Baptist church at Birchcliffe, preached at Queenshead in a friend's house. This resulted in the conversion of John Bairstow, a farmer living at Hazlehurst, who became a member of the Birchcliffe church in 1772, and opened his house for preaching. This was the formal commencement of the cause. Jonathan Scott, who lived at Ford, was another who embraced Taylor's views, and joined the church at Birchcliffe. The first Baptist chapel at Queenshead was built in 1773. It was twelve yards by ten within, and cost £160. The first minister was John Taylor, brother to the pastor of Birchcliffe. Since then the Queenshead church has been concerned in originating several other Baptist churches—Haley Hill in 1782, Allerton in 1825, Clayton in 1828, Tetley Street, Bradford, 1832, also Denholme and Ovenden. It has had but four pastors, John Taylor (1773-1818), William Hurley (1820-9), T. H. Hudson (1829-40), and the present respected pastor since 1841. The present chapel was built in 1820 ; it was enlarged for an organ and renovated in 1873, at a cost, including organ, of about £900. In 1774 John Taylor established the first day school at Queenshead. The Sunday school was founded in 1805. The school-room was built in 1825 and enlarged in 1853. It was enlarged again in 1871, and in 1874 ground was given by Messrs. William Foster & Bros., on which to build separate offices and to serve as a separate playground for the girls. In 1837, a burying-ground was added, and in 1861 the whole of the

debt, amounting to £700, was cleared off. In 1865 the present parsonage house was bought at a cost, including other property and ground at the back of the chapel, of about £900.

The history of the first minister, John Taylor, is a touching example of the early struggles of a Dissenting community to obtain a footing among a poor and scattered population such as existed at the Queenshead of that period. For some time Taylor resided at Halifax, being then the only Baptist in that town or its vicinity, and he worked as a miner, preaching besides on Sundays and week days at Queensbury and other places. On his removal to the village and after his ordination he still followed manual labour, first as a miner and next as a wool-comber, his yearly wages amounting only to £10 or £12. By a long course of industry and frugality, he persevered in establishing the Baptist interest, and in maintaining himself and family. Fully twenty years elapsed, however, before any substantial fruits were visible, and during that time the infant community had many struggles. The year 1792 marked a crisis in its history. A debt of £83 had accumulated, and a large portion of this, which was demanded, could not be paid. In this strait the pastor set out with a begging petition, making the round not only of the county, but also visiting Lancashire and Nottingham, walking every yard of the journey. The end was realised, but the worthy suppliant adds, "Until this excursion I had been a stranger to any pain in my teeth and gums, but since then I have endured much from such complaints. Medical men say that it was occasioned by my standing at gentlemen's doors, without my hat, when in a state of perspiration!" Somewhat better times followed this critical period. The good man sold his wool-combing tools and gave his remaining energy to the work, trusting to Providence for a living. He died in 1818, aged seventy-eight, after forty-five years' service, beloved by the members of his church, and generally esteemed by all in the neighbourhood. A marble slab to the memory of this worthy man is affixed in the present chapel.

The people of Queensbury are strongly marked by the varying features of the Yorkshire type of character. Bluff, hardy, wiry, and fresh-complexioned specimens are to be found among the men folk, and among the females are many rosy, strapping daughters of Eve. As the district occupies a sort of border-land approaching Lancashire, there is just a tinge of the "Hellifex tweng" observable, although the sympathies and interests of the inhabitants are gradually tending Bradford-wards. The people are generally intelligent, strong-principled, industrious, sober, and frugal. Nearly five hundred houses in Bradford are owned by Queensbury men. It might be said of

Queensbury as was said of a neighbouring village, that criminal offences are of extremely rare occurrence. A large proportion of the population are of course employed at "the Works," the relations of Messrs. Foster with their workpeople being clearly indicated by the fact that for thirty years there has never been a strike or anything approaching to one. Good trade and approachable employers doubtless have had much to do with this state of affairs, but the result is creditable alike to both employers and employed. The village is the centre of a flourishing Co-operative Society, which, with its five branches, numbers 850 members, and has a yearly turnover of £30,000. Another indication of the providence of the community is to be found in the number of members belonging to sick and benefit societies, of which the Odd-fellows and Foresters may be taken as illustrations. Other modes of insurance are also largely resorted to, as the branch of the Yorkshire Penny Savings Bank and the Halifax Permanent Building Society. Temperance has about 500 avowed adherents in the village in the three principal societies, and we can bear witness that "total abstinence" has not affected the robust looks of many of them, and certainly does not extend to all the good things of this life, as any guest at a Queensbury "spread" can testify. Another institution of the village is the military band known as the Black Dike Band. The fame of this fine body of instrumentalists is not confined to the locality. In the early days of brass band contests, they took the first prize at the Crystal Palace. There is also a thriving Agricultural Society in the village.

Perhaps in few places has the "mutual improvement" movement taken greater hold among the working population than at Queensbury. A number of "colleges"—of humble origin certainly, and in some cases of limited numbers—are in existence, which are doing good work, and are doing it independent of extraneous support. The plan generally adopted is for a number of young men to take a room or a cottage, and after fitting it up to assemble in it nightly or several nights a week for instruction or amusement. Among such societies or clubs in existence may be named those at the Hall of Freedom, at Hill Top, at Sandbeds, one near the Queen's Head, two at Beggarington—one of these having a considerable number of members—and another at Priestley Hill. Last, but certainly not least, must be mentioned the Liberal and Conservative Clubs, which contribute no little to the life of the community. In many places in the neighbourhood "round about Bradford" these clubs have been found to operate beneficially—one not unimportant feature of their existence being that they attract many who would otherwise pass their spare time in the tap-room or bar-parlour. As to the facilities for elementary education, Queensbury is fairly provided.

In the National School there is accommodation for 1100 scholars—boys, girls, and infants; in the General Baptist School for 370; and in the New Connexion School at Ambler Thorn for 200. The National Schools were considerably enlarged in 1867, at a cost of about £1500, chiefly through the generosity of Messrs. Foster, whose half-timers attend there. In November last a School Board for Northowram was formed, consisting of Messrs. M. Booth (president), G. Sunderland (vice-president), the Rev. T. Gibson, and Messrs. Rushworth, Bates, Hemingway, and Wormald.

There is an energetic Local Board at Queensbury, which has indisputably “mended the ways” of the district since its formation in 1866. Messrs. Foster own a large portion of the land in the immediate vicinity, and are virtually lords of the manor, although Mr. J. A. Jowett, Major Stocks, and several others have landed possessions. Whatever prosperity Queensbury has attained has been effected without any assistance from railways, but there is an almost immediate prospect of an iron road being laid within three-quarters of a mile by means of the Bradford and Thornton, and Halifax, Thornton and Keighley Railways. When these railways are completed, the village will be within easy reach of Halifax, Bradford and Keighley—and of the rest of the world. The station for Queensbury will be at Hole Bottom, and a special line for goods traffic will be laid to join it with Queensbury.

Denholme is a long straggling village of nearly 4000 inhabitants. The principal street skirts a broad shoulder of moorland reaching high up to Thornton and Ogden Moors, and it is besides a portion of the highroad from Halifax to Keighley. The village is six miles north of Halifax, five miles south of Keighley, and seven miles west of Bradford. Thus remotely situated, in a cross country hitherto untouched by railways, the village is a remarkable instance of that native energy so conspicuous in our northern dales, which, if it has not raised it from a “sterile wilderness to a fruitful country,” has at least elevated it to the rank of a thriving hamlet ready to take advantage of any gain that modern engineering science may bring to it. It will probably not have long to wait. Already the Bradford, Thornton and Halifax Railway is in progress as far as Well Heads, and the continuation from thence to Keighley will pass close to the village, thus bringing it into direct communication with the three towns with which the interests of its inhabitants are most closely connected. To none of the residents along the line of route will this railway be more acceptable than to those of Denholme.

About 1230 a great part of Denholme, excepting the park, belonged to Byland Abbey, to which it had been given by the Thorntons, of Thornton. By the marriage of Elizabeth, heir of Roger Thornton, to Robert Bolling, of Bolling Hall, near Bradford, the manor passed to the latter family, and about the year 1500, on the marriage of Rosamond, the only daughter of Tristram Bolling, to Sir Richard Tempest, of Bracewell, the Bolling estate went to the Tempests. Sir Richard Tempest held a principal command at Flodden Field, and after the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII. that sturdy monarch gave the Byland lands at Denholme to swell the estates of his martial knight. Passing over another century, we find the manor still held by the Tempests, who resided at Bolling Hall, the then owner, another Sir Richard, being a zealous Roman Catholic and Royalist, and a desperate gamester, who is said to have pledged his patrimony in a game of cards. It is stated that this, the last of the Tempests who possessed Bolling Hall, being engaged in a game of "put," in which the hall and estate were staked, and having a run of bad luck, exclaimed, while the cards were in the course of being dealt,

"Come ace, deuce, and tray,
Or farewell Bolling Hall for ever and aye."

At any rate, the estate soon after became the property of the Saviles, of Thornhill, and by purchase it has passed into various hands. During the time of the Tempests Denholme Park was several miles in compass, and was stocked with deer—one portion being appropriated as a "doe" park, which name it still bears. In the palmy days of the spirited Tempests what stirring scenes must have been witnessed from Denholme Edge or even from what is now the village street! The pen of a Scott might here find fitting occasion to depict in all their vividness the animating episodes incident to the pleasures of the chase—the arrival of the merry host with his guests and numerous following; the cheery notes of the huntsman, whose "bugle horn did echo, did echo;" the chase; the slaughter; and the triumphant return to Bolling Hall! But alas for the degeneracy of the age! As Dr. Whitaker said of an adjoining parish, the district has now "*declined* into manufactures." What was once the lair of the meek-eyed matron of the antlered herd is now the water-preserve of a Corporation who tolerate no poachers except the stickle-back and the tadpole; while the loftier region is peopled by a community who have long since exchanged the craft of forestry for that of the domestic loom.

After the wreck of the Tempests the park was parcelled out by the Saviles, when William Slater, William Whitaker, John Drake, and Richard and William Deane bought large tracts. In 1612 the two

former sold to Richard Horsfall, of Oxenhope, 120 acres of Weetshaw (Whiteshaw), and afterwards other portions of Weetshaw came to the Horsfalls, an account of whose family is given in a subsequent paper. A considerable portion of the park wall still remains, and also one of the gates, namely, the Thorn-gate leading to Hollin Park farm. It appears probable that the other two entrances to the park were at Denholme-gate and Cullingworth-gate.

Our destination being the village itself we pass round by Hollin Park farm-house, in front of some substantial cottages built by the Horsfall family, and up the hill side to the village street. Arrived here we have a good view of Doe Park reservoir and the vale in which it is situate, pleasantly terminated as it is by the wooded dene called Wood Nook. This reservoir is one of the water-stores made by the Bradford Corporation to compensate the various mills and streams affected by the taking of the waters of the Denholme valley. It has a water capacity of 110,000,000 gallons, a water area of twenty acres, and a length of embankment stretching across the valley of nearly 600ft. The Stubden reservoir, from which is drawn such a liberal supply of fine soft water for the High-level service of Bradford, is situated at a greater elevation still. The district of Denholme, composed as it is of numerous denes and cloughs intersecting high moorland, has been a fruitful watershed for thirsty Bradford. In the immediate district is the Hewenden compensation reservoir for the old supply from the Manywells Springs, and the Corporation are now making a catch-water tunnel four miles in length across the hill sides above the Stubden reservoir. These facts are sufficient to indicate the aqueous wealth which abounds in the district, consequent on its forming a portion of the range of Apennines separating Yorkshire and Lancashire. In addition may be mentioned the mineral stores contained within its somewhat bleak and uninviting "crust," the Halifax coal bed being extensively worked beneath its surface by Messrs. Townend, of Cullingworth. In some parts of the Halifax hard bed quantities of iron pyrites are found. The process of converting these into sulphuric acid or into sulphate of iron is carried on at Denholme as well as at other places along the line of outcrop. Another natural production turned to advantage is the fire-clay lying on the Halifax coal bed; and Denholme and Swilling, both of which are situated on the outcrop, produce quantities of what is technically termed black pottery, but which is known in the district as "Denholme China." This includes flower pots, bread jars, pitchers, bowls, and the other specimens of glazed ware hawked by itinerary pot-hawkers. The principal landowners are Messrs. Eli Foster, W. Buck, and Michael

Stocks; and Messrs. Jon. Knowles, W. S. Stanhope, and M. Stocks possess the manorial rights.

Going back to the ante-Norman period, we find indisputable evidence that our Roman conquerors, who took the country pretty much as the crow flies, made their way across a portion of Denholme Park, *en route* from Manchester to Ilkley, the *Mancunium* and *Olicana* of that period. This road, Dr. Whitaker says, ran over Blackstone Edge, left Halifax to the right, passing through Denholme, and leaving Cullingworth to the west. Betwixt Cullingworth and Hainworth the road was in his time visible, paved with neatly-set stones, and was twelve feet broad. John James was at some pains to trace this road, and although he could not identify the track through Denholme Park, he found that within some two or three years previous the road had been conspicuous in three fields about a hundred yards from Denholme Gate, and also near to Denholme Brewery. Antiquarian Denholmities point to an old road lying near to Messrs. Foster's works as the probable Roman road.

The hamlet is still, as it was in the time of the Thorntons, the Bollings, and the Tempests, associated with the township of Thornton, although for sanitary purposes it now possesses a separate local government. At the beginning of the present century there were but a few low-roofed dwelling-houses in the village, and a sprinkling of farmsteads on the adjoining slopes. Denholme House, occupied by the Hainsworths, is probably entitled to seniority, although the cluster of buildings known as Long House has been in the family of the Fosters for fully 300 years. It should be stated here that the name of Foster is a very common one at Denholme, there being three branches of it, each with lateral branches more or less prolific—a sufficient explanation of the custom which prevails in such cases of appending the genealogy of any individual member required, as Joe o' Dont o' Joney o' Martin's, &c. A letter simply addressed Joseph Foster, for instance, might have to be perused by seven or eight Josephs before it got to the right one. The Fosters of Long House trace their line to old Martin.

Seventy years ago the people were engaged in mining and partly on the farms. With the latter employment they also united hand-loom weaving, which had for some years been carried on in a small way. We have been unable to trace the parentage of this trade so far as Denholme is concerned, but Mr. Anderton, of Lower Whiteshaw, grandfather of the late George Anderton, of Cleckheaton, put out work and carried on the wool trade; as did Timothy Horsfall, of Hill Top, who also worked the coal under his own land. Timothy was the father of Timothy Horsfall, of Goit Stock, from whom descended the present

Timothy Horsfall, Esq., of Hawksworth, and his brothers, subsequently so well known in the Bradford trade. The Townends, of Cullingworth, also commenced their business at Sandbeds. In a very few years this branch of the worsted trade greatly extended in the locality, when John and Jonas Spencer assumed the leadership, and employed a large number of the villagers and others from outlying places, but the firm went down through misfortune. The goods exclusively made at that time were all worsted goods, called plainbacks, double-twills, and dobbies.

It was about 1830 that the first members composing the present well-known firm of Messrs. W. & H. Foster came to Denholme, having previously employed hand-weavers at Duckhill, near Hebden Bridge. If an instance were required of the ultimate reward of indomitable perseverance, no better could be provided than that furnished by the experience of the Fosters of Denholme. We believe the brothers made no secret of the fact that the sum total they could get together with which to commence business was £220. We should imagine that the present plant and stock could not be purchased for £200,000. But this is by the way. The peculiar trade that the young firm brought with them was the manufacture of heavy worsted goods called lastings, to which the firm has ever since adhered. Hand-loom weavers not being obtainable in sufficient numbers at Denholme, the brothers distributed their warps and weft all over the country-side, especially across the moors into Wadsworth and Crimsworth, collecting the woven pieces twice a week. A year after they had commenced business a lamentable and fatal occurrence took place in the carrying out of this practice, which cast a gloom over all their proceedings. Any one acquainted with the wild tract of country lying between the Wadsworth valley and Denholme will pity the solitary wayfarer compelled to traverse such a region in a wintry storm. On the 4th of February, 1831, Mr. Benjamin Foster, a young member of the firm, aged twenty-two, took one of the journeys above alluded to. He had with him, besides the horse and cart, a favourite dog called Shep. When ready for his return home it was nearly dark, the wind was boisterous, and the snow was falling fast. Notwithstanding the earnest entreaties of his friends to stay all night, young Foster resolved to battle with the storm, and starting off, no doubt in good spirits, he with some difficulty got nearly to the edge of the moor, when, instead of turning to the left, he went in another direction, and the horse and cart were precipitated into a deep morass from which large cakes of turf had been cut. In this dilemma Mr. Foster, not knowing what to do, decided to leave the horse and cart and go in search of some assistance, and while wandering upon

the moor another and much heavier calamity befell him. Owing to the severity of the storm he lost his way, and fell into one of the boggy places upon the moor. Seriously injured, and unable to proceed further, he became exhausted, and lay down upon a bed of snow, there to breathe his last sigh, heaven and the dog being the only witnesses. Next day search was made for the young man, and his body was found covered with snow, the faithful dog lying across his breast. In the graveyard at the Wesleyan Chapel, Denholme, there is a tombstone recording the mournful event. Brave "Shep" survived his master some years, his likeness was taken in oil, and the picture is still looked upon by many who have listened to his mournful adventure with a feeling akin to veneration.

After about ten years Messrs. Foster ceased to go into this wild region for weavers, but their old hands did not cease to work for them. Being people of strong and hardy constitutions, they carried their work all the long distance to Denholme upon their backs. One woman, named Grace Southwell, who for years conveyed pieces for hire across this moor on her back, got the epithet of "pack-horse," owing to the excessive weights she was in the habit of carrying.

Chiefly owing to the enterprise of Messrs. William and Henry Foster, and the natural expansion of the worsted trade consequent on the introduction of machinery, Denholme presently began to show signs of improvement. A period of six or eight years, during which the hand-loom system was being merged into the power-loom, we need not refer to, having done so at length in previous articles. In 1838 the Brothers Foster determined to erect a mill, an event of some moment in such a neighbourhood at that time. The progress of the building was watched with some interest by the villagers, but unfortunately before its completion it was blown down in the terrible gale of January, 1839. The mill, however, was rebuilt and enlarged, and worked for some years to the profit of both employers and employed, although wages were then little more than half their present rate. In 1857 a worse disaster befell it, for in about an hour it was burnt to the ground, together with all the machinery and a heavy stock of goods. About £15,000 was received for insurance. Another much larger mill had sprung up beside it by this time which was untouched by the fire, but unfortunately the machinery had not been completed, and the male weavers had for a short time to work the "night shift" in a mill rented at Ovenden. Without loss of time the old mill was rebuilt on a larger scale, and, owing to the rapid expansion of Messrs. Foster's trade, other buildings were added, until the present imposing pile, called Denholme Mills, had been accumulated.

These extensive manufacturing premises cover about ten acres of ground, and there are about other ten acres of reservoirs. On one side of the Halifax and Keighley Road the spinning mill and adjoining premises present a frontage of about 450 feet, and on the opposite side a handsome warehouse, six storeys in height and 180 feet in length, has been built. The ground floor of this latter building is appropriated to the principal offices, stock-rooms, &c., the upper rooms being used for the storage of wool, and woolsorting. A covered verandah from the upper storeys of these two principal buildings affords communication from one to the other. The premises to the rear of the principal line of frontage consist of a large combing shed, the old spinning mill with extensions, a separate building for mechanics' workshops, &c. Other recent additions have been the large weaving shed, 244ft. by 200ft., to hold 800 looms; a new engine-house, and chimney. The latter is a substantial erection rising to the height of seventy-two yards, with ornamental railing round the top. The motive power of the works is supplied by ten engines, six of them being on the compound principle, and they are equal to nearly 1400-horse power. The machinery throughout the works is of the most approved description, and contains many inventions which are peculiar to the establishment. Smoke consumption and the economy of fuel are also important features at these works. The principal buildings, which for their adaptability and extent take rank among the leading manufacturing premises in the district, have been built from the plans of Messrs. Milnes & France, of Bradford. A most elaborate system of waterpipes for fire extinction is laid down throughout the works, and the completeness with which the entire premises are thus encompassed is evidently a feature of some pride to the engineer, who is also chief of the fire brigade. The water for this purpose is procured at great pressure from a reservoir at Shawclough. Messrs. Foster employ upwards of 1500 workpeople, and pay £1000 a week in wages.

The speciality of these works, as before stated, is the manufacture of lastings and camlets, none of the ordinary dress goods of the Bradford trade being made. In this branch of manufacture they are the largest makers in England, their goods having an almost unrivalled supremacy, and being distinguished by a trade mark. The entire process of manufacture from the raw material is, of course, conducted on the premises, and is apparently well paid for, as excellent wages are earned by the workpeople. A much larger proportion of men is employed in the weaving than is to be found in an ordinary Bradford factory, and about equal wages are earned alike by male and female "hands." Nearly all the weaving is done on the one-loom system.

Both the original partners of the firm are deceased, Mr. Henry Foster having died in 1858 and his brother William in 1862, aged respectively fifty-three and fifty-nine years. The present representative of the family is Mr. Eli Foster, son of the before-mentioned Mr. William, his brother Benjamin having died in June, 1875, universally lamented by the entire neighbourhood. The name of the firm still remains "W. & H. Foster." The present cashier, Mr. Thos. Bancroft, represents a numerous class of workpeople who have worked for the firm all their lives, his term of service having reached to forty years.

Continued prosperity seems to have attended the concern from one generation to another, as is shown by the great extensions which have taken place. Since the death of the original partners the works have been nearly doubled in extent, and this has also extended to the village. Messrs. Foster own about 160 cottages, which are principally built on the slopes of the hillside above the main street. They also supply gas to about 400 houses besides those built by themselves. Several good shops and many better-class cottages have lately been built, and altogether the village presents a good illustration of the results of manufacturing activity under the healthful stimulus of "steam," especially as compared with the jog-trot pace and lethargy of the older era. In one respect, however, there is no improvement, but rather a retrogression on old times. There seems no reason why a country place like Denholme should not retain a country aspect, even under its altered condition as a manufacturing village. Instead of this we find the inevitable rows of "back-to-backs," built close up to the street line, without any attempt at a bit of garden even of the straitest or narrowest town pattern. The dearness of the land cannot be urged as an excuse for thus imitating the worst forms of town building, for, as the Yankee said of England generally, "they have so much land that they have to pile it up!" We understand, too, that with a view to increase the number of dwellings Messrs. Foster a short time ago actually offered to *give* land in the most eligible portion of the village! The Messrs. Foster have, however, done much to improve the appearance of the neighbourhood. Both gentlemen having built residences on the high ground above the works—that now occupied by Mr. Eli Foster being called Waterloo, and that by the late Mr. Benjamin, Whiteshaw—cultivated a large tract of the surrounding moorland and liberally planted it with forest trees, which are thriving well, and already form an attractive feature in the landscape. Both these properties have been added to by the acquisition of adjoining farms, and the present firm are now considerable landowners. Their influence in the village is, however, principally commercial, and as

employers of nearly one half of the entire community it is gratifying to record that the relations of employers and employed are of the most cordial description.

Besides the establishment of Messrs. Foster there are in Denholme one other manufacturing concern, two copperas works, a pottery, and the extensive brewery belonging to Messrs. Knowles & Son. In addition to these there are several collieries, the competition for the younger workpeople between these subterranean workshops and the large factory being somewhat severe. At each end of the village there are stone quarries.

The social life of such a manufacturing community as that at Denholme is of course largely determined by the amount of success which attends the undertakings of the employers. Sufficient has been said to indicate that a large measure of prosperity has, at least, attended Denholme Mills. When, therefore, everybody who can work does so, and is well paid for it, we are not surprised to learn that there is a large measure of comfort and contentment. With a town-like vulgarity we peeped into one domicile as the family were assembled at their "drinking," and made a mental estimate of the week's earnings of the working members thereof. There were the father, two strapping lasses, one strapping lad, and a short-timer. We leave those skilled in factory arithmetic to sum up the earnings such a family must bring in! The inhabitants are also as intelligent and frugal as they are industrious. Not a few of them are providing for a "rainy day" in one form or another. This is a gratifying contrast to the Denholme of former days, when we learn that cockfighting and other brutalities were not uncommon. About £200 a month is paid into building societies, besides other modes of investment, such as savings banks, "stocking feet," and the like, of which none but the owners know the exact amount. There is a branch of the Queensbury Co-operative Society at Denholme, which makes a large turnover.

Friendly Societies are also largely supported. The Order of Foresters is especially strong in the village. A few years ago the court Black Rock erected a large building called the Foresters' Hall, which, besides being used for lodge purposes, is also available for public meetings, &c. This hall represents an investment of about £2000. The lodge was established in 1846, and now numbers 111 members. Another court of Foresters, the Ram's Horn, numbers 125 members, having been established in 1834. Its funds amount to £1295. The Manchester Unity of Oddfellows has also a lodge, the St. Paul's, established about twenty years ago, and now numbering 150 members, with a fund of £750. Two more Oddfellows' lodges com-

plete the list. These figures, although possessing nothing unusual about them, are given as some indication of the provident propensities of the villagers generally "round about Bradford." Temperance is represented in some measure by a tent of Rechabites, politics by Liberal and Conservative Clubs, and music by a Choral Society and a Brass Band.

From the enumeration given below it will be seen that the spiritual interests of the inhabitants are amply provided for, there being, in fact, church and chapel accommodation for more than the entire population. The Church of St. Paul, of which the Rev. Aaron Brown is vicar, occupies a commanding position on the high road to Denholme Gate, and was erected in 1846, chiefly through the liberality of the late Mr. Jonathan Knowles and Messrs. W. & H. Foster, at a cost of £5000, the former of whom also presented the east window and the organ. The edifice is a graceful example of early Gothic, with nave, chancel, and aisles. The adjoining parsonage was erected by the Rev. P. Eggleston, the first incumbent. The living is stated at £175, and is in the gift of the Crown, alternately with the Bishop of Ripon. The National Schools were also erected at a cost of £1100, mainly through the exertions of the late Mr. Jonathan Knowles, aided by a grant of £300; Messrs. Eli and Benjamin Foster have since added the classrooms. The sites for church, schools, and parsonage were given by Mr. Wm. Buck, an extensive landowner in the district.

The Wesleyan Methodists are by far the oldest denomination in the village. As early as the year 1760 a small society was in existence under the fostering care of Wm. Grimshaw, of Haworth. In 1763, however, the society only consisted of seven members, five of whom were members of the Ogden family, who were long the principal promoters of Methodism in the village. In 1793 the first chapel was built, consisting of an upper room with two cottages underneath. This building was enlarged in 1823, but has now been supplanted by a very handsome chapel erected in 1870, at a cost of £4000, the foundation-stone of which was laid by the late Mr. Geo. Anderton, of Cleckheaton, a native of Denholme. This edifice is admirably situated, fronting the main street and overlooking the Doe Park valley.

The Wesleyan Reformers have also a substantial chapel, built in 1853, and very recently enlarged. The General Baptist Chapel owes its origin to a few members who came to Messrs. Foster's from near Hebden Bridge, and they have now a very tasteful and commodious edifice. About the year 1844 a small chapel was erected by the Congregationalists, and the Primitive Methodists have also a small chapel. Sunday schools are attached to all these places of worship, four of

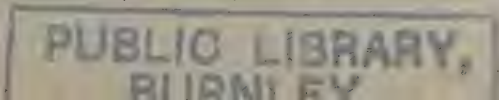
them being conducted in separate buildings ; the Congregationalists having a handsome school building adjoining the chapel, erected at a cost of £1100.

Educationally the village has until recently been decidedly deficient in schools, the only building of any pretensions to efficiency having been the National School, half a mile away from the village. The Thornton School Board, which includes Denholme within its district, has, however, come to the rescue, and provided two handsome schools—one in the centre of the village at Lodge Gate, and a second at Denholme Clough, the former to accommodate 400 children, the cost being £4500 ; the latter to accommodate 180, and the cost being £2450. Both were opened in 1875. In addition to the Mutual Improvement Societies must be named the Mechanics' Institute. This institution has a membership of 150, and possesses elementary and science classes, a library of 600 volumes, and reading, discussion, and amusement rooms. At Denholme Clough there is a Working Men's Institute.

The sanitary arrangements of the village are conducted by a Local Board, of which Mr. Timothy Horsfall is chairman. The Local Board district had a population in 1851 of 2630, in 1861 of 2816, in 1871 of 3469, and the present estimated population is close upon 4000. The rateable value at the levying of the last rate was £9818.

Having thus recorded the various commercial, educational, and religious appliances of the little moorland village we have little room for comment, either to contrast the present with the past, or to speculate upon the future. If a perusal of this sketch should induce anyone to make the acquaintance of the village and its inhabitants, two or three hints may be acceptable—Be prepared to walk both ways, choose a fine day, and before leaving take a view from Denholme Edge !

The nearest passenger station for Thornton is the Pack Horse yard in Bradford, from whence what is facetiously termed a "carriage and pair" may be hired for fourpence ! The advantage of making this the starting-point is that passengers have a choice of conveyances of various builds, the most popular being a machine resembling a dyer's cart, with windows in it, and receptacles for huge milk-cans. We believe the larger proportion of passengers arrive at their destination safely, with no worse consequences than a serious disorganisation of the system. Even this pleasant mode of conveyance is only available on three or four evenings of the week, all these machines having their head-quarters at Thornton, and taking up Bradford people as a special



favour. The mode of collecting Thornton passengers for the return journey is one of a very accommodating character. Having disposed of his milk (the genuine article, let us hope), the next concern of the proprietor is to look up his customers, whom he addresses thus : "Nah, ar ta bahn up wi ma?" the answer to which generally is, "Ah sooin ar ta bahn up?" "Wah, directly." In the absence of any special contract to return with a rival proprietor, this is generally sufficient. A cargo being obtained, the marketing Thorntonsians with their purchases are all trundled off homewards for another day.

It is a mistake to assume, as many do whose knowledge of the district is somewhat vague, that Thornton is on the road to nowhere. Ordinary tourists might be content to know that Halifax is reachable that way, but with even less effort may be visited Moscow, Egypt, Jerusalem, and the World's End. It is notable that all these places are very stony regions ; the Egyptians, unlike their eastern namesakes, being especially well off in this respect. Approached from the Bradford end of the dale, the country has a more pleasing aspect, although the whole contour bears indisputable marks of its former wildness. Thornton itself is built on a shoulder of high land which projects into Bradford-dale, thus causing a diversion of the otherwise broad vale into two smaller ones known as Pinchbeck and Bell Dean. The village extends along the southern slope of the hillside, and its growth seems to be taking a direction westward, or in that portion of it furthest from Bradford. The more picturesque portions of the hamlet are those lying along the Pinchbeck Valley down to Leventhorp, at the head of which is the smaller headland of Headley. Moderate brooks run down the Pinchbeck and Bell Dean valleys, and unite at Leventhorp, from whence they form the stream known as the Bradford Beck. Geologically, the whole district surrounding the village and extending throughout the township is most interesting, exhibiting as it does very marked features of the glacial period. The local rocks belong to the lower or gannister coals and to the flagstone, which are faulted to the north against the rough rock. In the bottom of the Thornton valley towards Bradford, the Low Moor coals are brought in by parallel faults. In the upper portion of the district seams, varying from 20in. to 26in., are found of the upper or Halifax hard bed ; the seams of the lower or soft bed do not exceed 14in. to 18in.

After the previous notices of Clayton and Denholme, it will not be necessary to refer in detail to the very early history of Thornton, with which they were so closely allied in old times. The township has apparently, ever since records were kept, included the hamlets of Denholme, West Scholes, Headley, Leventhorp, and School Green.

In perusing its early history we meet with the same names as lords of the soil as in the case of the adjoining manors. Before the Conquest Thornton had belonged to the Manor of Bolton, and is spelt in Domesday Book "Torenton," the assumption being that the locality was covered with thorns or brushwood. According to John James, from whom we quote, as early as 1150 a family of the name of Thornton held large possessions here, and thus obtained the privileges of a manor, the first notable lord being Hugh de Thornton. The Bollings, of Bolling Hall, were the descendants of the Thorntons, and after them the manor passed by marriage to Sir Richard Tempest, of Bracewell, until in 1620 it was sold to a Mr. Watmough. About 1638 the manor was sold to the Midgleys, and by them it was retained until 1715, when it was conveyed by Josias Midgley, along with the Headley estate where he resided, to John Cockroft, attorney, of Bradford. In 1746, a moiety of the manor, including Headley, was purchased by John Stanhope, and another moiety by the Horton family, from whom it descended with the Manor of Horton to Captain Rhyss, on his marriage with the daughter of Sir Watts Horton. The present lords of the manor are W. S. Stanhope, Esq., and Major Stocks. The principal landowners are Messrs. Foster, of Queensbury, who bought the large estate belonging to Captain Rhyss, amounting to about 240 acres; Mr. W. S. Stanhope, who still holds the Headley estate; and Mr. F. S. Powell, who owns the land about School Green, Leventhorp, and down to the township boundary, in addition to a large holding in the Bell Dean valley.

An Act of Parliament for enclosing the moors and waste lands of Thornton was obtained in 1770, and next year an enclosure took place. The lands enclosed about Well Heads (skirting Denholme Park), Thornton Heights, Foreside, and up to Oxenhope Common, amounted to about 900 acres. The old enclosed lands, not exceeding 300 acres, lay close to the present village (then consisting of six houses), and were intersected by Kipping Lane and the old road past Headley. A small patch existed at Dean Lane End belonging to Mr. Balme, and a somewhat larger strip had been enclosed at Foreside. Among the largest freeholders to whom allotments were made were—Sir Wm. Horton, Walter Stanhope, Dr. John Firth, Dr. Hill (or Hall), Mr. Lamplugh, John Mitchell, Miss Midgley, Mrs. Ferrand, Joseph Wilkinson, Abraham Pearson, Jonas Pearson, John Pearson, Matthew Patchett, Isaac Hollins, &c. As some indication of the increased value of land, it may be stated that in 1641 Michael Pearson, the predecessor of the Pearsons of Closehead, bought a little estate there, with messuage, from John Midgley and Jeremy Thorp, the price being

£180. The present representatives of this family have recently sold to the Great Northern Railway Company land at Closehead which has realised £2000.

In 1801, the township population was 2474; in 1851, it was 8051; in 1861, it was 7627; thus showing a decline of 424, which, however, was changed to an increase of 1496 in the next ten years, when the population for the united township was, in 1871, 9142, and for Thornton alone, 5687. The present estimate for Thornton is 6400. The rateable value of the township is about £23,000, £12,500 of which may be apportioned to Thornton village. The following figures throw light on parochial affairs a century ago. Expended on account of the poor in 1776, £196 6s. 10d.; amount raised by poor and other rates in 1803, £1044 15s. 2d.; amount of rate in the pound, 16s. 6d. The poor rate is now 2s. in the pound, and the amount expended about £2200. Figures are proverbially "dry" reading, yet who can say how much "heavy wet" the figures for 1803 represent? The times were bad, but we have heard some racy tales of carousals of town's officials about that period—"hail fellows, well met,"—whether at the expense of the poor or the poor ratepayers we say not.

Before leaving this part of the subject we must take a few figures of a more ancient date still, and perhaps the remote distance may lend them some additional interest. In the year 1380 twenty-one persons in Thornton paid 4d. each to the capitation or poll-tax, which was levied at that time and granted to King Richard II. Of those then resident here none except William Leventhorp, of Leventhorp, who is described as a franklin (gentleman), were liable to pay more than the lowest scale. William Leventhorp is assessed at 3s. 4d. As a comparison it may be stated that in Bradford only fifty-nine persons, assessed on the whole at 23s., were liable to this tax. Thornton, and indeed the whole of Bradford-dale, seem to have been singularly fortunate in escaping the troubles which came upon Bradford during the Civil Wars in 1642-3. When the tide of victory turned in favour of the Parliamentarians they were not slow in putting their success to good account, either by sequestrating the estates of their opponents or mulcting them in large sums of money. In the record of these transactions we find the name of Tobias Lawe, of Leventhorp, who compounded for his estate by the payment of £350. Passing over the struggles of the Cavaliers and Roundheads, and some subsequent events, for lack of any material connecting the inhabitants of the dale with them, we meet with a scrap taken from the Sessions Rolls, which refers to another civil war of 1715, when His German Majesty George I. was king, and in undisguised dread of the Pretender and his friends

the Jacobites. This scrap is called a "particular list of all persons within the township of Thornton that are lyable to take the oath to His Majesty and Government, according to the present Act, 1715." The names that follow are—"Abraham Brooksbank, schoolmaster, jun., William Hyrd, Quaker, Jeremy Gleydhill, Joshua Firth, Timothy Horsfall, Thomas Short, William Pearson, Jonas Pearson, John Jennings, John Shackleton."

Few things are of greater interest in a town's history than the reminiscences connected with its ancient residences. They are invaluable as connecting links, and wonderfully assist that imagination which is seldom dormant in any visitor whilst rummaging amongst mediæval treasures. Thornton Hall, situated on the slope of the hill below the church, although of baronial proportions, does not lead us back to the time of the earlier Thorntons, the probability being that as they had also large possessions about Elland and Barkisland, they did not reside in this neighbourhood. A branch of the Thorntons, however, resided at Thornton, and had considerable possessions there long after the manor passed out of the family, and Thornton Hall would doubtless be their home. The hall is a large square building with parapet, the south frontage being apparently of the time of 1600. The centre portion would seem of much older date, the windows and general appearance fully justifying that assumption. The western gable has been judiciously buttressed to save a collapse that was inevitable except for that precaution. Some of the rooms retain portions of their ornamental mouldings and diamond flooring, and as to size, the builders of that period at least did not set the example of erecting houses where the operation of "swinging a cat" could not be performed. In the garden there is an old stone arbour, over which is the inscription, *DEUS NOBIS HÆC OTIA FECIT* (God made this leisure for us). Formerly there had been an avenue of yew trees, and three of evident antiquity still remain. The old place has been sub-divided into cottages, excepting one portion, which is occupied by Mr. James Booth, who farms the adjacent land. The hall was long in the possession of the Horton family, along with the moiety of the manor before-mentioned, and the family once resided there. It now belongs to Messrs. Foster, of Queensbury, as a portion of the estate bought by them.

Another old place is Leventhorp Hall, situated near the road side some distance from the village. The Leventhorps were a family of some note about 1300, holding the manors of Leventhorp, Horton, and Clayton. We read of a Nicholas Leventhorp holding the lordship of Bradford, and William Leventhorp, the only gentlemen in the dale. The manor of Leventhorp annually rendered to Richard the Third

£28 6s. 8d. The hall is a square, double-roofed building, with very large windows, the principal frontage being towards Clayton. On a recent visit we were informed that formerly it contained "as many windows as there were days in the year." Although not very extensive the original building must have had a noble aspect. The principal entrance has been diverted, but the former entrance-hall is clearly traceable, passing through to the rear and forward up a wide oaken staircase, which still remains. As the building has been decapitated by taking off the third storey, this staircase leads to nowhere. There are some immense fireplaces, and abundance of oak panelling. Outside, a little distance from the front, there is an artificial embankment not unlike a moat, which retains the name of the "bowling alley," for which purpose it has probably been used. The hall and adjoining land are the property of Mr. F. S. Powell. It is scarcely necessary to remark that the high road to Bradford which passes the hall is only the work of the past half-century.

At Hole Ing there is an old house with the initials T. L. and E. L., and the date 1588, which not improbably was the residence of one of the Leventhorns, or of some predecessor of the Toby Lawe who had to perform the unpleasant task of buying back his own estates.

In connection with the above old mansions should be mentioned the old water-mill at Leventhorp. In an inquisition taken at the death of one of the Lacies, to whom the manor of Leventhorp went by marriage, Leventhorp Mill is described as a "fulling mill," the process of fulling being of course the stiffening of cloth. Evidence that the cloth manufacture was carried on in the district 500 years ago is not wanting, as other mills are alluded to in ancient documents. The making of woollen cloth, in fact, constituted the staple trade of Bradford in the days of Queen Elizabeth. Few more advantageous positions could have been obtained for this trade than that of the present mill at Leventhorp, on account of the water from the adjoining stream, and also because of the road (from time immemorial no doubt the only high road) which runs past the mill. Such a complete metamorphosis has been wrought during the "steam era" about the place that it is hard to say whether any portion of the old fulling mill remains. The water power is still made use of, and Messrs. Ramsbotham & Co., who run the mill, have completed some new works which have made the premises of considerable extent. Wool-combing is the exclusive business now carried on. A little lower down the stream, the corn mill now occupied by Mr. R. Cundall is of evident antiquity.

There is another fine old Elizabethan mansion at Headley, a little knoll overlooking Pinchbeck, at present and for the last half century

occupied by Mr. Isaac Wood. We know not whether to admire more the old hall or its occupier, who is a thoroughly representative dalesman. The hall was apparently erected by the Midgley family, as in the western wing there is an inscription "W. Midgley. 1589." A later inscription over the porch is "J. M. 1604." The old place is in excellent condition, and is apparently an object of pride to the occupier, who, while he has renovated, and in some of the rooms modernized, has preserved the main features intact. The black oaken entrance door is a fine specimen of old woodwork, and this may be said of the oak wainscoting in the upper rooms. The windows are large and curiously leaded. William Midgley is mentioned as a juror in Barnard's Survey, taken in 1577, and these jurors were generally taken from persons of position in each district. We have previously stated that the Midgleys were lords of the manor for about a hundred years from 1630. After being for several generations in their possession, the Headley estate descended with the moiety of the manor to the Stanhopes, who are now the owners. Headley may be looked upon as the parent of Thornton, most of the families now resident at the latter place having had their origin there.

As to Thornton itself, we have precise details of its arrangement and proportions seventy or eighty years ago. There were then just twenty-three houses about what is now and what was then the main street, and of these, three were public houses! In addition to these there would be little clusters of dwellings at School Green, Headley, West Scholes, Kipping, Close Head, and Leventhorp. The Town-end was then *the* town. One or two houses stood on the upper side of Market Street and several on the lower side. The only house for a considerable distance on the upper side of the street was that now occupied by John Drake, and at that time owned by Abraham Brooksbank. In this house he lived for eighty-six years, and died in it in his ninety-second year. The house and a large portion of the land lying adjacent to it and also on the low side of the New Road, were bought by Brooksbank's father. Two of the "publics," the Black Horse and Bull's Head, occupied their present positions, and there was another, called the White Horse, which stood where Mr. Shackleton's shop, the post-office, now is. Of course, there was then no New Road, which was only made in 1826, the contractor who completed the work being Nicholas Wilkinson. The highroad from Bradford, after passing Crosley Hall and Leventhorp Mill by the present old road, proceeded by way of School Green into Market Street, and thence down Kipping Lane. The Bull's Head Inn was built on a piece of waste land by one Thwaites, whose brother was highway surveyor.

The shopkeeping interest was represented solely by old Mally Adams, whose stock-in-trade might have been bought up with half-a-crown, and that probably would have been a good bargain for the old lady, as her staple trade was "spice." We must not do injustice to Jonas Robinson, "t'owd butcher," of whom we learn that at the Tide he used to "kill a *whole* cow," and had it well exposed that every one might be aware of the fact. As the Tide comes only once a year, and as cows generally have a natural dislike to be killed piecemeal, we are left to conjecture on what the people lived for the rest of the year. On pressing an "old inhabitant" further on this point, we were told that very little meat was needed, many of the inhabitants being quite satisfied with bacon or "meil stakes" three times a day! There was a time, however, when even "stakes" could not be had—a time known as the "barley war," when meal was 5d. a pound, and a hard day's work would only realise sufficient to buy two pounds of it. At that time farmer men were better off even than weavers, their wages being 8d. a day and "wittles," the best of them getting from 10d. to 1s. Halifax was, at the time in question, the market for Thornton, Bradford being of little repute. If any one had scraped together sufficient to buy a new hat or stuff for a pair of breeches he rejoiced greatly, and made a pilgrimage to Halifax to invest in these articles, which when obtained had sometimes to last a generation. Meal and milk, the articles of food most in request, were had from the neighbouring farmhouses, and, in reckoning for the latter a system of "strap" then existed which was easily checked by both buyer and seller. This was done by what was called a "milk stick." When the milk was fetched on "tick," the customer took a long three-sided piece of stick, on one ridge of which a fresh notch was cut for each purchase. When the score was paid, nothing could be simpler than to slice off the notches at one sweep and begin again.

The Workhouse was then at Cote Gap. Its position, however, was subject to change, as a practice existed of renting small houses, or hovels, in various places for the paupers. Jonas Bentham was overseer, collector, and paid the poor half a century ago, but before him came Will Spencer. Unfortunately, this latter official managed to bury a pauper woman twice over, which lost him his position, and probably made the ratepayers look more sharply into the accounts of the parish, of which they stood in need, as town's affairs seem to have been managed on a very loose system. Considerable warmth was exhibited in the yearly contests for churchwardens, overseers, constables, &c., and some very "striking" arguments seem to have been adduced on certain occasions. A record of town's affairs of the last

half century (to which we cannot make further reference than to say that of late years they have been conducted on something like business principles) would not be complete without mention of the name of Mr. Isaac Wood, of Headley, who for above forty years has been churchwarden, guardian, &c., and is still an active public man.

In referring to the trading interests of Thornton we need not go farther back than the beginning of this century, except to note that before the worsted trade was established the cloth trade had possession—Michael Pearson, who in 1641 bought land at Closehead, being described as a clothier. In its commercial relations, Thornton as it is has very little in common with Thornton as it was. Even the worsted trade, which was its specialty at the commencement of the century, has participated in the change. In 1800, the two principal employers—if that is not too high-sounding a term—were Jonathan Wright and a person named Wheeler. The gross production of each at the week's end, however, was only four or five pieces, which Jonathan shouldered down to Bradford, whilst Wheeler took them in front of him on horseback. It is reported that David, the father of Jonathan Wright, who was a sort of hedge-lawyer and “reading-man,” was imprisoned for his religious opinions. After Jonathan Wright and Wheeler, came John and Joseph Jowett, or Joseph o' Glazener's, who did a bit of “stapling” besides keeping woolcombers. The father of John Jowett, named Joshua, “did a bit i' t' waste trade,” and seems to have been an eccentric individual and an inveterate rhymester. Although tolerably well-to-do, his dress was scarcely remarkable for taste, consisting as it did for years of an old serge over-all, breeches, and a piece of sacking fastened with a skewer! Assisted by his farm Jonathan Wright made a moderate fortune, and his son David, who had more “go” in him than his father, extended the weaving business. It was David who in 1826 built the Old Mill for spinning by throstles, he then giving up hand-loom weaving. At the time of his giving up manufacturing, he was producing from three to five hundred pieces per week. He also acted as agent for Richard Fawcett, of Bradford, selling his warps and weft to the small manufacturers, his commission being 2s. 6d. per warp, and 1s. per gross for weft. In 1828, Simeon Townend introduced at the Old Mill the first power-looms run in the Thornton Valley. The inhabitants, however, were so prejudiced against them that he was obliged to get his first weavers from Lancashire. In 1837 Mr. Townend built Upper Mill, and greatly extended this branch.

Others who about David Wright's time] commenced weaving were George Leach, father of Messrs. Joseph and William Leach, since of

Bradford ; Joseph Craven, of Closehead, father of the late Joshua Craven, sen. ; and James Craven, also of Closehead, father of Mr. Phinehas Craven, of Pudsey, who, now approaching his ninetieth year, has long survived his fellow-tradesmen. Joshua Craven, named above, and the present Jonas Craven, with his partner Henry Harrop, took to the business subsequently. A few others kept their own families at work, in addition to doing something on the farm. Messrs. Rand, Fawcett, and Thompson, of Bradford, also sent work into Thornton. As business increased the Thornton masters sent their pieces to Bradford by a carrier's cart which came from Denholme with Atkinson and Spencer's goods, and there was still room for other merchandise. The descriptions of goods then made were wildbores, calimancoes, and dobbies. These gave place to plain-backs and shalloons, the latter of which were the equivalent for the present French merinoes. Plain-backs have now "gone out." Besides the weavers there were the hand-combers, who were chiefly employed by Bradford men, and worked around a "pot o' three" or "pot o' four" as it happened. The processes necessary at that period before a weaver could sit down to his frame would astonish the present generation. Both weft and warp had first to be spun from the finger in single threads, and the shuttle was thrown across the piece by hand. At that time there were only two weavers in the township who could earn 6s. a week, 5s. being considered good wages. And yet it is on record that one man who earned 4s. a week not only lived but *saved money*, having in his possession several seven shilling pieces ! It should be stated that a decent cottage could then be had for £2 a year. Although the goods made by hand-loom were at first so few that the production of a week might, like Jonathan Wright's, be shouldered down to Bradford, yet, before the advent of power-looms, the trade had grown to great proportions, Joshua Craven, Craven & Harrop, and James Craven being large employers.

What is known as Dole Mill was built by Mr. Jonas Craven, who had as his partner Mr. Harrop. This firm, however, had for years run power-looms in Bradford. About the same time Mr. Joshua Craven, with whom was associated his son, Mr. Joseph Craven, erected Prospect Mills, having meanwhile commenced with steam power at Globe Mill, Bradford. The next important building extensions were at Messrs. Townend's mill, now belonging to Messrs. Peel, Brothers & Co., and in 1870 followed that of Messrs. J. Northrop & Son. The old mill at Leventhorpe had also been run in the worsted business by several persons, among them being Mr. Joseph Fairbank and Mr. Joseph Wood. Meanwhile, in the struggle

between the old and new systems of manufacture, both masters and men had some hard times. The year 1837 especially was a sad year for the little hand-loom employers, and not a few had to succumb to the inevitable. To the strong firms, however, better times soon came; steam power and cotton warps superseded hand-looms and all-worsted, and the tide of prosperity was taken full advantage of. Nevertheless, had Thornton earlier possessed those facilities of communication which its inhabitants have now in prospect, it would have progressed in a ratio compared with which its recent advance can only be considered moderate.

The present manufacturing firms are Messrs. Craven, Brailsford and Co., Dole Mills; Messrs. Joshua Craven & Son, Prospect Mills, whose business has recently been purchased by Messrs. Getz and Co.; Messrs. Peel, Brothers & Co., Thornton Mills; Messrs. Jonathan Northrop & Son, Albion Mill; Mr. R. J. Walton, Old Mill; and Messrs. H. R. Ramsbotham & Co., Leventhorp. Several of these firms have specialties of manufacture for which they are celebrated, namely, shawl cloths, orleans, fancy goods, baratheas, coburgs and Italians; also all-wool goods of a special description. Nearly 2000 workpeople are employed by the above firms, a number that will sufficiently indicate how largely the material interests of the community are dependent upon the prosperity of the worsted manufacture. The wages earned are four times as large as those paid in the beginning of the century.

Another branch of manufacture has of late years sprung up in Thornton which promises to take root and flourish. Although closely allied to existing branches it may also be said to be an addition to the Bradford trade, and as such cannot but be hailed as an acquisition. Thornton has long enjoyed a celebrity for the making of shawl cloths, technically known as Indianas or Cashmeres. These shawl cloths are mostly dyed into blacks and are finished with a wool, worsted, or silk fringe. Fully one half of them in the finished state are exported to all parts of the world. Although the cloth—a description of Coburg—was made here, the people of Paisley had acquired a celebrity for making it up into shawls by a fringing process, and consequently reaped the advantages therefrom. Some years ago, however, Mr. Joseph Craven, now deceased, devoted his energies towards both the dyeing and fringing processes with such success that those departments have been almost entirely withdrawn from Scotland and located here, from whence the goods are sent in the finished state. By improvements which have been introduced, the fringing process formerly done by hand is now effected by machinery. In 1864 Mr.

Phineas Craven invented and patented a machine for this purpose of a somewhat elaborate character, but the machines now in general use were invented and patented by Mr. Joseph Craven, of the firm of D. & J. Craven, of Closehead, who are largely engaged in this particular trade. Fully 300 persons, mostly young people, are employed in this new branch.

The village also possesses another establishment of some note and of long standing, namely, the shuttle works of Messrs. J. Ingham and Sons, of Croft Head, which were established in 1796. The firm of Clayton Brothers were also in business at Thornton before their removal to Bradford. Shuttles are an important item in a manufactory now-a-days, and of late years have been considerably improved. From an inspection of Messrs. Ingham's show case, recently returned from the Vienna Exhibition, we find them to be in great variety, from the tiny silk shuttle to the big description used in cloth weaving. All these varieties are made at Messrs. Ingham's, besides other descriptions of loom-tackling. The firm were successful exhibitors at the Paris, London, and Vienna Exhibitions.

The local stone trade is also an important element to notice in the natural wealth of the district. The stone is of great repute for general building purposes, and it is found in almost unlimited quantities. Quarries were worked at Thornton Heights when other immediate districts, although equally rich, had not even been probed. At present there are in the Local Board district of Thornton about thirty quarries, and allowing fifteen as the average number employed at each, it would give a total of 450 men and boys. Messrs. Moulson and Messrs. Farrer employ as many men as all the other quarry owners combined. The wages vary from about 2s. per week for boys, who begin in some cases at eight years of age, to £1 10s. and £2 for adults. Barers are paid from 28s. per week; delvers from 35s., and hewers, 33s.; and they work fifty hours per week. In twenty-five years the wages of barers have increased 75 per cent.; delvers, 84 per cent.; and hewers, 65 per cent.

Messrs. Isaac Wood & Sons are the principal colliery owners, having several pits; and other owners are Messrs. E. Clayton, S. Briggs, &c. The coal measures are, however, well nigh exhausted. The only other branch of industry connected with the soil is farming, and the chief produce is milk. We have been told that many years ago a few cereal crops were grown, but the district is naturally a grazing one, and with Bradford so near as a market for any quantity of the produce of the cow that may be sent to it, the "energies" of the farmer are entirely turned in this direction.

Few places are richer in historic associations in connection with places of worship than Thornton ; and if on this subject we cull somewhat freely from available records, we do so in the belief that the result may be of interest both to Churchmen and Dissenters, each having here a sanctuary hoary with hallowed associations. Within the walls of the old churchyard the ancestors of both rest peaceably together.

We do not find any evidence of a church of the pre-Reformation period existing at Thornton, nor is it clearly ascertainable whether or not a building existed previously to Thornton Old Chapel. Built into the wall of the western gable there is a stone with this inscription (partly obliterated)—“This chappell was builded by —— Freemason, in the yeare of our Lorde 1612,” and above it is another stone with the figures “1587.” The date 1612 is generally accepted as the period when the edifice was erected. The ancient building was dedicated to St. James, and was one of three chapels or chapelries belonging to the Bradford Parish Church, as in 1638 it was so returned. The other two were Wibsey and Haworth. Within the chapelry of Thornton were also the townships of Allerton, Wilsden, and Clayton. The old church now only awaits a “faculty” before its uninviting exterior is razed to the ground, as it has been superseded by the new edifice on the opposite side of the road, which building amply illustrates the better taste of the present generation of Thornton churchmen. The old structure, notwithstanding all the alteration and “beautifying” it has passed through, was a sanctuary little calculated to inspire devotional feeling, being low, dark, and damp ; but as the church of the district it gathered attendants from a wide area, who were in turn baptised, married, and buried within its sacred precincts, and to whose descendants it must naturally have become a hallowed spot. In 1756 it was almost rebuilt, the cost being defrayed by the four townships within the chapelry. In 1793 an organ gallery was added, and in 1818 the chapel was repointed and the cupola erected. The chapel bell, dated 1664, is now hung at the National Schools. Formerly very little ground must have been attached to the chapel, on the east end especially, as in the register for 1747 there is an entry, “Paid Mr. Horton £10 for site of vestry,” which, although only a little place, was the scene of many a lively fracas in olden times. Nearly an acre of ground was added in 1861 to the old burial ground, the gift of Mr. John Foster, of Queensbury.

On a recent visit to the old sanctuary, one could not remember its impending fate without thinking of that “temple not made with hands,” eternal and immovable in the heavens. Neither could one help think-

ing, while pacing its well-worn aisles, honeycombed with the vaults of past generations of sturdy yeomen, of the "straits to which old Time reduces frail man." The mouldering dust of these honoured sleepers will soon be robbed of its distinction and placed on a level with the less favoured clay outside ! The old box pews, many of them "protected" by brass plates indicating the owners thereof, offer a notable contrast to the light and "unappropriated" sittings of the new erection across the way. The choir, or "singers," as they were called in old times, were perched up in a dark loft, at some distance from the pulpit, which was a "three-decker" of the old stamp, with a sounding-board suspended above the upper tier looking suspiciously like an extinguisher. Over the entrance to the building there is a notice-board to the effect that—"This chapel was 'beautified' 1818. P. Brontë, incumbent." The old stone font inside the church bears the date 1679 ; and from the existence of another font outside dated 1687, we infer that it was used for baptismal purposes in fine weather.

There are many monumental tablets in the interior of the chapel in memory of the Firth family of Allerton Hall, and of the Hirsts of Bright-waters, Clayton. On the north wall, near the altar, there is also one to the memory of the Rev. Joseph Thwaites, born at Brough, Westmoreland, in 1726, and died February 28, 1799. Mr. Thwaites resided at Clayton, and was for forty-five years curate of Thornton.

Until comparatively recently, when it was made a new parish, the chapelry had been a perpetual curacy, the value of the living being set down in an old Parliamentary return at £155. According to a recent return it is £320. The Vicar of Bradford is the patron. The following is a list of perpetual curates who have held the living :—1655, Jeremiah Maston ; Joseph Dawson, ejected by the Act of Uniformity in 1662 ; 1706, Thomas Ferrand ; 1714, Michael Baron ; 1724, John Finch ; 1739, William Sunderland ; 1742, Joseph Haigh ; 1746, Joseph Hague ; 1754, Joseph Thwaites ; 1799, William Atkinson ; 1801, John Ison, B.A. ; 1802, Joseph Wilson, B.A. ; 1804, Thomas Atkinson ; 1815, Patrick Brontë, B.A. ; 1820, William Bishop ; 1839, George Thomas, B.A. ; 1851, Henry Woodward ; 1855, Richard Henry Heap, the present incumbent, son of the Rev. H. Heap, late vicar of Bradford.

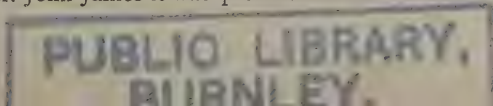
Judging from some curious entries in the registers, the church authorities at Thornton were at the commencement of the last century very strict in punishing immorality, and many persons were excommunicated for various offences. Mr. Thwaites, who for so long held the chapelry, seems also to have been a censor of morals and a strict disciplinarian, and probably discharged a very laudable duty. In 1787 he caused a resolution to be passed at a vestry meeting in com-

pliance with a proclamation issued, and enforced it, which contained the following provisions :—That no publican should sell beer, &c., after ten p.m. on week-days, the feast-day excepted, nor before twelve a.m. on the Sunday, nor between two and four, nor after eight p.m. except to travellers. All persons found tippling to be “presented” before the magistrates. That all races, trails, bull-baitings, cockfightings, gamblings, &c., be “let up.” That no butcher kill or sell on Sunday ; also that no grocer or other shopkeeper sell goods on Sunday. That no baker sell bread on that day except between the hours of twelve and two. The churchwardens at that time were John Shackleton, Richard Wheeler, Ed. Ogden, John Armitage, James White, and Thos. Smith ; and the document was approved by John S. Firth, Joseph Downes, John Waugh, John Booth, David Jowett, and John Craven. A curious custom seems to have prevailed in the early part of the seventeenth century. Before a corpse could be received for interment the person who saw it before death had to take oath that the body was “not clothed in any shirt, shift, or shroud other than that made from the fleece of sheep !” Up to the year 1830 the poor were paid at Thornton Chapel.

Considerable interest attaches to Thornton as the birthplace of Charlotte Brontë, who, in addition to Branwell (the “neer-do-weel” of the family), Emily, Jane, and Anne, was born at the then parsonage-house in Market Street, now occupied by Mr. Priestley Jowett. Charlotte was born on the 21st of April, 1816. Of the fame afterwards acquired by the authoress of “Jane Eyre” it is unnecessary here to speak. Since that work has attained to a world-wide reputation, both Thornton and Haworth have become honoured names to all true lovers of literature. The two younger sisters also attained a comparative celebrity. It was Emily who thus wrote as she pined for her Haworth home :—

“The house is old, the trees are bare,
Moonless above bends twilight’s dome ;
But what on earth is half so dear—
So longed for—as the hearth of home ?
The mute bird sitting on the stone,
The dank moss dripping from the wall,
The thorn-trees gaunt, the walks o’ergrown,
I love them all—I love them all !”

Their father, the Rev. P. Brontë, who had previously held the living of Hartshead, was presented to that at Thornton in 1815. The living was then in the gift of the Rev. John Crosse, vicar of Bradford, and in the belief of Mr. John James it was presented to Mr. Brontë through the



influence of the Rev. W. Morgan, of Christ Church, Bradford, who had married Mrs. Brontë's sister. Mr. Brontë was an Irishman, and one of a family of ten children, his father farming a few acres of land in County Down. In his early career he must have exercised considerable perseverance and self-denial, as from his humble beginning he afterwards entered St. John's College, Cambridge, and succeeded in obtaining the B.A. degree. As a clergyman he seems to have been faithful in the discharge of his parochial duties at both Thornton and Haworth (to which place he removed in 1820). The chief interest which attaches to his name, however, arises through the reputation acquired by his extraordinary family. He died at Haworth on the 7th June, 1861, aged eighty-four, and was interred there.

The new church of St. James, on the elevated ground to the right on entering the village from Bradford, is built on a site of half an acre, given by Mr. John Foster, of Queensbury and Hornby Castle. The new building is a chaste and most substantial structure, in the early English style, and was erected from the designs of Messrs. T. H. and F. Healey, of Bradford. The church, however, cannot be considered completed until the spire, for which the basement has been provided at the east end, has been erected. The edifice consists of nave, south aisle, chancel, and organ recess. A north aisle may be added at some future time. There is accommodation for 700 worshippers. The roof is lofty, and is open timbered, as is also the chancel. The pews are of pitch pine. The chancel stalls and pulpit are of oak. The east window is a beautiful specimen of stained glass-work, and has been presented by Mr. and Mrs. John Foster, jun., at a cost of £400. The subject is representative of the *Te Deum*, and is in six sections. In the small rose window above is depicted the Crucifixion. The remainder of the windows are filled in with cathedral glass. Although simple in design the interior of the church is of a lightsome and pleasing character. The cost has been about £6000. The foundation-stone was laid with Masonic honours by the Marquis of Ripon, the Grand Master of the Order, on which occasion a large number of the craft were present. The mallet that was used at the laying of the foundation-stone of St. Paul's Cathedral was called into requisition. The church was consecrated by the Bishop of Ripon on August 21st, 1872. Towards the cost of erection Mr. F. S. Powell contributed £600, and the Foster family, Messrs. Theo. Peel, J. Craven & Son, &c., were liberal donors. The new church is on the "free and unappropriated" system, and dependent for ordinary expenses on the weekly offertory. The Sunday school connected with the church is conducted in the National School-room.

7.11.11 1.1804

The origin of the old Independent congregation at Kipping, Thornton, cannot be fixed with precise accuracy. It has existed in one shape or other from the time of the Long Parliament ; but it is affirmed by the learned in ecclesiastical antiquity that the date of its origin is much further back in the days of Puritanism. Little doubt is there that when Elizabeth was seeking to enforce Uniformity, and assert her supremacy in things spiritual as well as temporal, many of the old inhabitants in this dale resented such royal interference in the realm of conscience, and began meeting together for worship as a protest against prelatical pretension and semi-Romish rites. The birth of Puritanism in our land is thus closely identified with the beginning of the free Christian Church at Kipping. Its earliest people were often fain to escape into such nooks and corners as would hide them from their relentless persecutors. Kipping, the name of the chapel, is the name of an estate at the western end of Thornton, on which it was originally built, and from which the people were driven by stress of persecution. Kipping House, at present the residence of Mr. Francis Craven, has still standing in proximity to it an old barn, which is mentioned in some old documents as having been fitted up and used for divine worship. Here, in the agitations of the times, the congregations met at uncertain hours to defeat the suspicions of informers and spies. From an extant MS. volume of sermons by the Rev. Matthew Smith, one of the early settled ministers in the place, we are able to cull some extracts which show the dangers and difficulties to which those sturdy "Gospellers" were exposed :—

"Aug. 30, 1684. Gen. xvii. 2. Kipping, 10 at night. Bailiffs unweariedly diligent with warrants against us."

"May 24, 1685, at Brother Berry's, at 3 in the afternoon. Argile is come into Scotland. Parliament met in London. Parliament in Scotland makes it banishment or death to those that conform not."

"1 month, 1683-4. Kipping at break of day. Judges at Assizes now give Justices a charge to present us at 20 pound a month and 1s. a month absence."

"1 June, 1684. Mr. Whittaker is taken Lord's Day before."

"8 June, 1684. 69 names presented at Leeds, many fined."

"13 July, 1684. Kipping, 9 at night. Jeffrey, Chief Justice, comes to the Assize with special commission and instruction from the King to prosecute all Protestant Dissenters."

"20 July, 1684. Kipping, at 2 in the morning. Col. i. 4. At the Assizes Mr. Ward, Mr. Taylor, and 12 more are committed ; called rogues and traitors. He tells them that the King's pleasure is to root out all fanatics."

"August 24, 1684. Kipping, 10 at night. Col. i. 5. William Naylor and 4 with him, in prayer with a sick man, are taken, and a conventicle made of it."

"August 30, '84. New bailiffs unceasingly diligent to apprehend ministers and people."

Thus, in those persecuting times, when justice was a mere name ; when the brutal Jeffrey was trampling on men's most sacred rights ; these dwellers in Bradford-dale and first worshippers at Kipping, in spite of peril and death, helped in no small measure to keep the fire of true religion from being extinguished in the land.

The Rev. John Ryther is the first minister of whom there is any authentic account. Twice he had been ejected, and in 1668 he assisted in forming a gathered church. He had much of the spirit of the old Puritan about him. When the plague and great fire in London happened, he felt deep sympathy with the sufferers, and preached several sermons thereon. His preaching and usefulness rendered him obnoxious to the Stuarts, under whose reign he was twice committed to York Castle. On the passing of the Five Mile Act, he was obliged to seek an asylum in London, and leave his flock at Kipping without a shepherd. Amongst the neighbouring ministers who at this time occupied the Kipping pulpit (1669), we find the names of Henry Root, Sowerby ; Christopher Nesse, Leeds, and Jeremiah Marsden, that "peculiarly persecuted Puritan."

The Rev. Henry Root was Mr. Ryther's successor. The flame of persecution suffered no abatement in its intensity towards him, but he proved himself to be in every way worthy of the Christian ministry in those troublous times. Like his honoured predecessor, his loyal attachment to Nonconformity brought upon him the repeated displeasure of those in high places. Three times was he a prisoner for conscience sake in the Castle at York. Often the church at Kipping was in this way deprived of its shepherd, and the people had to endure not only lack of service through having no ministerial supply, but also the painful thought that he who was separated from them was in bonds for Christ's and the Gospel's sake. In our altered and improved times we cannot form any idea of the joy which would thrill the hearts of the old Kippingers when Ryther and Root were five times in succession welcomed back from the dungeons of York Castle.

In 1672, the Rev. Richard Whitehurst became the pastor. He was a popular preacher, and for a time his ministry was very profitable ; but, adopting the views of the Fifth Monarchy men, relative to the personal reign of Christ, he gave offence to "some gifted brethren," Josh. Lister, John Hall, and others, who for a season withdrew from the church. At this time Oliver Heywood, who was at Northowram, and who was well known at Kipping, as in all the country round about, interposed his influence, and not without success. Whitehurst, however, was compelled to leave in 1679.

The Rev. Matthew Smith was afterwards chosen minister at Kipping. He was a man of considerable attainments as a scholar, and of varied mental endowments. For some years he was comfortable and happy in his ministry, but, changing his views on some vital doctrines, his usefulness was soon brought to an end. Oliver Heywood says, in a letter to the Rev. Thos. Jollie, dated December 1st, 1700 :—

“ We have another breach made in our parts by Mr. Matthew Smith preaching and printing a book against the imputation of Christ’s righteousness for justification. I am much concerned about it, because it diverts people from the main practical things to endless disputes, besides the perniciousness of his doctrine. When a minister begins to whiffle about the great doctrines of the Gospel, the congregation who may get rid of him may think it a happy deliverance.”

For many years after Mr. Smith was minister at Mixenden. In the chapel there a stone with a Latin inscription bears honourable testimony to his character and the fidelity of his ministry.

Next came Accepted Lister. His father, Josh. Lister, was a true Puritan, a man of sound understanding, of ardent piety, and of inflexible attachment to the principles of Nonconformity. His mother was distinguished for her piety and the purity of her lips—a very “mother in Israel.” At the time of his birth she attained a joyful assurance of her interest in Christ, in testimony of which she called him, in accordance with the fashion of the day, “Accepted.” Being in good circumstances Accepted received as good an education as a Dissenter’s child could do in those days. In early life he became so well known as a preacher that his services were coveted by many of the churches in the neighbourhood. The people at Kipping desired him early in life to become their pastor, but this he declined at the time, advising them to get a better man. For a while he divided his services between Kipping and Bingley, and at last determined to remain at Bingley because his house and chapel were under one roof—a consideration of importance to him on account of his weakness. But the Kippingers had no idea of letting Accepted Lister remain quietly at Bingley, for they were continually pressing him to return. To relieve his embarrassment, he asked the opinion of his neighbours in the ministry, which resulted in his determination to return. The people received the news most joyfully, and on the 22nd July, 1702, sent thirty men and as many carts and horses, and brought him and all his movables. Throughout his ministry he was very lame, having broken his thighs in his youth; the lameness was greatly increased by a fall from his horse which again broke both his thighs, and for fifteen years he always preached on crutches. He was nevertheless a mighty man of God, and his ministry was greatly blessed. “He being

dead yet speaketh." On the 25th of February, 1709, he died, and fourteen days after his noble-hearted father followed him. Together their bodies rest in one grave, in the Episcopal Chapel burial ground, Thornton.

The Rev. Daniel Hulme was the successor of Lister. For forty-six years he went in and out amongst the people, and during his ministry the congregation is reported to have grown to about 300. He had eleven children, who all lived to the age of maturity : seven sons and four daughters. Most of the sons rose to positions of distinction and influence, yet the salary of the Kipping minister at this time never exceeded £40 a year.

The Rev. T. Muschet became Mr. Hulme's successor in 1757, and soon after he was followed by the Rev. Timothy Priestley, brother of Dr. Priestley, the well-known advocate of Socinianism. After a residence of four or five years, he removed because of some disturbances which arose during the previous pastorate, about the right to the chapel, and which were continued during his ministry without any visible abatement. He is described by Mr. Cockin as being unstudious, rambling about during the week, and at his wit's end for sermons when the Sabbath came.

In 1766 John Whitford, who had been a travelling companion to George Whitfield, succeeded Priestley. During his ministry the first chapel was built upon the present site, and the name of Kipping carried from the west to the east end of Thornton. The unhappy disputes respecting the old place were thus brought to an end, and the church became happily united. Unfortunately Mr. Whitford soon showed that he lacked all the requisites for his office, and as a natural consequence the cause was injured, and his removal became a necessity.

In 1777 the Rev. Joseph Cockin took the pastoral oversight of the church, and under his powerful ministry a new impulse was given to religion. He was in his day what Heywood had been a century earlier. For fourteen years he was the apostle of the district. "Full of vigour and vivacity he entered upon his labours. His preaching was distinguished for boldness of conception, for freedom of speech, for apt and colloquial illustration, presented with great zeal and animation, for a prominent exhibition of the great truths of the Gospel, and for warm-hearted and friendly intercourse with the people." With his occasional services is associated the rise of Independency in Bradford, and in many of the populous villages of its neighbourhood. In 1792 he removed to Halifax, but the congregation at Kipping never forgave the Halifax people for taking away their favourite minister.

After a century has elapsed his name, memory, and sayings are as fresh as though he had lived during the present pastorate. Invisible, he seems to be still a power amongst the people, and every succeeding minister has been greatly aided by the noble work done by Joseph Cockin.

The Rev. John Calvert was the minister on whose shoulders Cockin's mantle fell. This was in 1796. Different as Elisha was from Elijah, was Calvert to his predecessor. "He had no scholastic acquisitions. His intellectual discipline was meagre. These defects, however, were amply compensated by clear views of Gospel truth—by a natural, musical, masculine enunciation in the pulpit—by great tenderness and delightful unction in his preaching. He was a man of remarkably meek and pacific disposition, a ripened and mellowed Christian. He was much beloved by his church and congregation, and his hearers became so numerous that it was deemed advisable to enlarge the chapel in 1807." After twenty years of good work he died very suddenly, while preparing to preach, one Sunday morning in the year 1816. Amongst the many hospitable homes in Thornton, in one there is to this day the chair in which John Calvert died. It is a seat of honour, that in which the good man last sat on earth, and from which his spirit took its flight to fairer worlds on high.

In 1816 the Rev. Robinson Pool was chosen minister. Says Mr. Gregory, his successor:—"Without any pretensions to varied and profound gifts as a preacher, he was thoroughly consecrated to his work, and perhaps no minister at Kipping has been equally honoured by the great Head of the church in the conversion of souls unto God." His hearers so much increased, that in 1823 the chapel was enlarged to its present dimensions. After sustaining the relations of pastor for sixteen years, repeated and complicated afflictions compelled him to resign his charge. After a few years spent in the bosom of his family, he was called to his great reward, and his body brought from Driffild, where he lived, and interred at Kipping.

In 1834 the Rev. James Gregory became the pastor, and for thirty-seven years carried on a good work here. Mr. Gregory was a ripe scholar; to the end an earnest and laborious student, hence his mind was richly stored with lore gathered from all quarters. To him the Christian ministry was the divinest and noblest work in which man could be called to engage, and out of this sprung his passionate love for preaching: a passion which only death itself could quench. Throughout life he took the deepest interest in the progress and advancement of the many students with whom he became acquainted through his frequent visits to Airedale College. When his son James,

now the respected minister of Belgrave Chapel, Leeds, resolved upon entering the ministry, his largest wish we believe was satisfied, and his most importunate prayers answered. During his ministry nearly 600 persons were received into church fellowship at Kipping, and the number of members nearly doubled. Despite a difference which arose some years ago in the church, when a number of the members left and formed what is now known as "The New Road Congregational Church," the Sunday school largely increased, the congregations were seldom more numerous, and the contributions to the Airedale College, London Missionary Society, and the Home Missionary Society were increased fourfold. During his pastorate the church was once enlarged, and a few years ago completely renovated. New and commodious school-rooms were also erected in 1845.

In 1870 the Rev. Frederick Hall, the present minister, then a student of Airedale College, became co-pastor with Mr. Gregory, and in June 1871 Mr. Gregory took his farewell of the people and retired to Bradford, where he died 18th of May, 1875. Occasionally he visited the scene of his life-long labours, and it was in April 1875 that he made his last journey to Thornton, and preached his last sermon. He went home to die, for he was at once laid prostrate, and after a month of great suffering his spirit took its flight to "the realms of eternal day." He was a worthy successor of an illustrious line—a preacher of the Puritan type in thought, language, and style. Amongst the people at Kipping no name is more tenderly cherished than that of their last departed minister and friend.

The congregations at Wilsden, Allerton, and Denholme regard Kipping as the mother of them all; and Independency in Bradford, Halifax, and Leeds, was in a greater or less degree promoted by this old Puritan church.

New Road Congregational Church, an offshoot of Kipping, was formed in October, 1866, and at first worshipped in the Athenæum. Ground for the present handsome edifice, worth about £700, was presented by the late Mr. Joseph Craven, of Clapham Park, London, formerly of Thornton, and the foundation-stone was laid by him on September 28, 1869. The new chapel was opened on Good Friday, 1871, at a total cost for the building of £3600, towards which the late Mr. Craven contributed £1000. The design of the edifice is Gothic, a style which had not been previously introduced into Thornton, and from its commanding position and architectural pretensions it is a prominent object in the village. The pastorate of the church was supplied from 1868 to the end of 1875 by the Rev. W. M. Arthur, M.A., and is now held by the Rev. John Stevenson.

The introduction of Methodism into Thornton may be dated as far back as 1747, although it is doubtful if the society had obtained a foothold at that time. In that year Thomas, or Tommy Lee, as he was called, one of the early preachers of Methodism, visited Thornton, and spoke of it as a place where no Wesleyan had previously preached. A year or two later William Darney, a zealous evangelist, mentions "Thornton town" in his well-known doggerel verses as a place where the "Gospel trump" was sounded. Between Darney and William Grimshaw, of Haworth Church, a warm friendship sprung up, and during the itineracy of the former, numerous Classes were raised throughout the immediate neighbourhood, which went by the name of "Wm. Darney's societies." These were all placed under the pastoral oversight of Mr. Grimshaw, and formed what was commonly known as "Grimshaw's Round." Accordingly, in 1762 we find evidence of a class having been formed by the entry, "Thornton, 7s. 3d. by W. Grimshaw." A long interval must now be passed over, during which doubtless the few members of the society residing about Thornton would keep alive the flame, as in 1781 there was at Cote Gap a class of sixteen members, with Caleb Jennings as leader.

About the year 1816 preachings, well remembered by some now living, were held in a barn at Close Head; next at Cote Gap and in some upper rooms at Mount Pleasant. During this time the society gathered strength sufficient to "arise and build," and hence the erection of the present chapel in West Lane. The commencement of this edifice was a bold undertaking, only about £200 being in hand towards the £1400 which it was to cost, and of this sum Mr. G. B. Brown, of Halifax, gave £20. The chapel was opened in 1824, having neither vestry attached nor the bottom of the chapel fitted with seats. At the laying of the foundation-stone by the Rev. J. James, of Halifax, he took for his text, "There shall be a handful of corn in the earth upon the top of the mountains, the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon, and they of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth"—a text, no doubt, suggested by the elevated position of the chapel. The opening services were conducted by the Rev. T. Lassey, Mr. G. B. Brown, and Jonathan Saville—"little Jonathan"—a well-known local preacher, who had often visited the circuit. This witty lame man, who was born at Great Horton in 1759, died in 1842. The log of wood upon which he used to stand is still preserved in the old chapel at Brighouse, where it is known by the name of "Jonathan Saville's clog." In 1837 the school was built, in 1842 the minister's house, and a graveyard was added afterwards. The chapel was enlarged in 1851, and the debt paid off in 1872, but owing to the giving way of the roof a new debt of

£1000 was incurred, which, however, has all been paid. The congregation now propose to build new schools, at a cost of £1600, of which plans have been made. For many years the Wesleyans struggled hard to establish a day school in Thornton, but ultimately gave up the attempt. Thornton was formerly in the Halifax Circuit, and about 1824 was joined first to Keighley and next to Bingley, until the year 1843, when it was included in the Great Horton Circuit.

The remaining place of worship in Thornton is the Methodist Free Church. Originally the church formed part of the Great Horton Circuit of Wesleyan Reformers, but about eleven years since it was joined to the Bradford Circuit of the United Methodist Free Churches, which denomination was formed by the amalgamation of the Wesleyan Reformers with the Wesleyan Association, the latter having seceded from the Wesleyan Connection in 1835. The chapel was erected in 1857, at a cost of about £1570, and an organ has subsequently been erected.

Space will not permit of our noticing at length the origin and subsequent educational operations of the Endowed School, the School Board, and the Mechanics' Institute. The Old Grammar School was established by subscription, and endowed with lands in Thornton and Bradford, settled near the time when the school was founded in or about the year 1672, by Geo. Ellis and Saml. Sunderland, for the maintenance of a schoolmaster to teach Latin and English. The master had also two annuities, viz., 40s. paid out of Leventhorp Mill, and 20s. left by Thomas Sagar out of Allerton Grange. The school was rebuilt in 1831. Mr. Joseph Boston was the late master. After the passing of the Endowed Schools Act in 1870, the Commissioners under that Act reported on its neglected condition and obsolete method of working in terms far stronger than are usually employed by Government officials, and in the scheme which the Commissioners issued for the reconstruction of the school a new body of trustees was to be elected, five of the old trustees being re-instated. The trust is now composed as follows:—Co-optative governors—Messrs. Wm. Foster, F. S. Powell, M. W. Thompson, J. O. Wood, Theo. Peel and Jos. Craven, Mrs. F. Craven, Mrs. Ward and Miss White; representative governors—Messrs. Walter Robertshaw and William Fairbank, appointed by the Allerton School Board; Jonathan Knowles and David Craven, appointed by the Thornton School Board; and Thomas Jowett and Alfred Wallis, appointed by the ratepayers of Clayton. The annual value of the endowment handed over to the new trust was £104; it has now been raised to about £300, chiefly through the sale of land. Of the three fields at Laisterdyke formerly

let for £15 15s., the trustees have sold one field for over £1800, they have let another for £140, and have the third in hand. Pending the building of a new school-house, for which the trustees are looking out for a site, the school is being conducted in the Mechanics' Institute, Thornton, the new master being Mr. W. P. Mann, B.A. The governors have during 1875 established a Girls' Grammar School, for which powers were given in the Scheme.

On the passing of the Education Act a general desire existed that its provisions should be extended to Thornton, and accordingly at a meeting held on the 28th March, 1871, called in compliance with a numerously-signed requisition, it was resolved that it was expedient a school board should be formed for the parochial district of Thornton, which also includes the hamlet of Denholme. Accordingly an election took place on the 19th May, at which seven persons were chosen, Mr. William Pickles being afterwards appointed chairman. The new board set actively to work, and found that of the total number of 2161 children between three and thirteen residing in the parish, only 1211 appeared on the register of existing schools, 950 not attending any school. To meet this deficiency the board resolved to erect three schools, viz., at James Street, Thornton, Lodge Gate, Denholme, and at Keelham, and this has been done at a cost of about £12,000, accommodation being provided for 1000 children. The School Board rate for 1874 was 9d. in the pound. The present members of the School Board are:—Messrs. Joseph Craven, H. E. Foster, Jonathan Knowles, E. E. Rawson, William Pickles, M. Priestley and T. Bancroft, jun. The National School has also been recently enlarged by the addition of a large infants' room.

The history of the Thornton Mechanics' Institute is that of many another kindred society. Established in accordance with a common desire which prevailed about the period of its birth (1835), namely, "to provide the working classes with the opportunity of suitably spending their hours of leisure, either in the acquirement of knowledge or in amusement," it has had a struggling existence. Even in its feeble years, however, it supplied a want existing in every village. It has had several habitats, and a membership varying from sixty to eighty, until having reached maturity in 1866, the event was celebrated at the next annual meeting with great *eclat*, and from that date the number of members steadily increased. In 1861 there were 120 members; and in 1871, 298. Last year, however, the number of members had decreased to 246, the falling off being owing to the opening of night classes at the Board school. The most marked increase was in 1871, when the society, having performed a nearly forty years'

pilgrimage, and having been subject to the privations incident to all nomadic tribes, settled in an habitation whose ownership no one could dispute. The site was presented by Mr. Joseph Craven, of Ashfield, and the foundation-stone of the new structure was laid by that gentleman amid much rejoicing on the 2nd of July, 1870. The building, without pretending to possess any architectural distinction, is substantial and commodious, and a decided ornament to the village street in which it stands. The total cost was £1400; towards which sum £1000 was raised soon after the opening. It is interesting to note that 653 persons joined in this subscription, and that of the whole number, 450 were working men. The new building was opened by Mr. Edward Miall, on July 15th, 1871. Unfortunately a debt of £400 threatened to become a lingering incubus, and was removed only a short time ago by the energy of the committee, who, remembering how easily, comparatively, the larger sum had been raised, determined, having "swallowed the cow, not to stick at its tail." The institute being now free from debt has, we trust, a long career of usefulness before it. We cannot close this paragraph, however, without recording the great loss sustained, both by the institute and the village generally, in the death of Mr. Joshua Craven, jun., in December, 1874, at the early age of twenty-five. His labours in connection with the Sunday school, the Mechanics' Institute, and the School Board were indefatigable. Proud of his native village, he was ever ready to promote its interests or those of its inhabitants. By a coincidence, his death occurred within a few days of that of his grandfather of the same name. Mr. Joshua Craven, sen., was a fine specimen of the old Yorkshire manufacturer, and he died full of years and honour. He was a consistent Dissenter, and for many years a deacon of Kipping Chapel.

The village is just lamenting the loss of John Ackroyd, whose poetic effusions had earned for him the respect of many who knew him only by name. Mr. Ackroyd was born at Alderscholes, in 1818. His parents were hand-loom weavers, and what education he got was obtained at Kipping Sunday School. From boyhood, however, he was fond of books, was a lover of nature, and conscious of its beauties. In his maturer years he was a truly large-hearted man. Many of his poems have been printed, and generally breathe the spirit of their author. Mr. Ackroyd passed calmly away, to quote his own expression, "surrounded by friends, and by all that could make life pleasant," on March 28, 1876.

Thornton is a thriving, healthy village—

"Where a man is a man if he's willing to toil,
And the youngest may gather the fruits of the soil."

Observation has demonstrated that here a person of either sex and fair average strength of body, may live and look for that which we all hope to reach, namely, "good old age." But those in whom there is a tendency to pulmonary or to heart disease, had better seek some other and milder district. The general physical appearance of the people, who are natives of the district, will at once indicate to the stranger that they are strong, muscular, and intelligent, and although there are a good number of "publics," yet the men of Thornton are decidedly temperate as to intoxicating liquors—a fact which speaks volumes. We cannot do better than append here the testimony of one who, having resided a year or two in the village, has had sufficient opportunity of observing the peculiar features of its inhabitants, without being liable to the bias of a native. He says:—"The inhabitants are earnest and conscientious, independent and remarkably honest. They are a hard-working and generally provident class. In manners they appear rough and hard to a stranger, but under the apparent coarseness there is no lack of kindly feeling." The genuine Thorntonians are extremely clannish. Content with their own prosperity they do not blazon it abroad to attract others, but quietly accumulate a little store. It will scarcely be expected that we should indicate how these "little stores" are invested. Building societies are in favour with the bread-winners, and many are in possession of property through the facilities thus offered. Among the young folks the Yorkshire Penny Savings Bank is popular, the number of depositors being 300, to whom over a £1000 is due. It is not too much to assume that the Sunday schools, which for a long period have been such a special feature of the village, have not been without their influence in instilling these habits of thrift. There are at least six friendly societies in existence, some of them established for forty years. The total strength of these societies is about 950 members, with an accumulated fund of £9000. We believe that Thornton and the immediate neighbourhood contains as many "old inhabitants" as any district in the county. At a recent gathering of 120 of the aged poor, there were ten who were 70 years old, one 71, four 72, three 73, four 74, five 75, one 76, three 77, four 78, three 79, one 80, and one 85. Some of these old people have thus known the village from its first score of houses; they can detail every varying phase of its existence, and the history of the worsted manufacture from its earliest years.

Steam has wrought changes at Thornton as at other places, and some of our ancient friends are not slow to hint that it has also brought deterioration in more ways than one. We know not whether steam is to be credited with the introduction of Sunday evening ser-

vices in place of the afternoon service of old times, but for long this "taan-like" innovation was looked upon with disfavour. We are reminded of the time when people for miles round came (and were there in time !) to Kipping Chapel on Sunday mornings, heard "sum-mat like a sarmon," had dinner at the Black Horse (which consisted of a "mess o' broth and a pint o' ale, all for 3½d."), smoked their pipes and discussed *seriatim* the sermon and the state of the crops, and were thus in a proper state of mind for the afternoon discourse ! We fear that "steam" or something else has much to answer for. Is it to this powerful element, too, that "sittings up" are even at Thornton among the things of the past ? Time was when these were real festive occasions : when mob caps, sashes, and white dresses were in a state of preparation for weeks before, and now—where are they ? The only answer we could elicit was that young folks are "aboon it now-a-days." We can scarcely attribute it to "steam"—perhaps to the want of it—that the musical ability of Thornton has fallen off so much. Time was when a first-rate oratorio was a yearly event at Kipping Chapel, and when Tom Parker and Miss Sykes—(Bradfordians will know her best as Mrs. Sunderland)—were looked for with delightful anticipation. Such an event, however, is now of the rarest occurrence. Tom Parker of Haworth, the "Yorkshire Braham," was during his professional career a notability in these parts, and few men probably enjoyed a greater local reputation. Mr. Parker died in his eightieth year in April, 1866, and was buried at the Wesleyan Chapel, Haworth. In reference to outdoor amusements, Thornton used to be the scene of many a good tussle at football, and that too on a large scale, when Haworth met Clayton, or either township challenged Thornton. Cricket, too, found some of its earliest admirers in the village, and we believe the noble game is yet well represented by the present clubs. For above twenty years there has also been a horticultural society.

The Thornton branch of the Bradford, Halifax, and Keighley Railway, the first sod of which was cut on March 11, 1874, by A. B. Foster, Esq., of Queensbury, is progressing, and is expected to be opened in about a year. The contractors are Messrs. Benton & Woodiwiss, of Derby, and the line will be worked by the Great Northern Railway Company, of whose system it will form part.

In a closing paragraph we may say that sanitary arrangements are under the management of a Local Board, first elected in 1865, of which the following are the present members :—Chairman, Mr. George Townend ; Messrs. Isaac Wood, Joseph Craven, R. J. Walton, Jonathan Northrop, Fred Mossman, James Lingard, David Craven, John Hindle, and Thos. Sunderland. Clerk, Mr. S. Wright, and Medical Officer,

Mr. E. E. Rawson. The Board have obtained borrowing powers to repair the highways, of which they have twenty-six miles under their supervision. Gas is supplied by the Clayton, Allerton, and Thornton Gas Company ; and water by the Bradford Corporation.

Allerton is a pleasant village, just near enough to Bradford to be almost part of it, and just far enough away to be out of reach of the smoke-canopy which is nowhere more apparent than from its elevated slopes. It is a thriving village too, with thoroughly Bradfordian proclivities, and if ever the big town should encircle it within its embrace Bradford will be the gainer by the addition of a lusty race of Anglo-Saxons, who would bring with them a fair share of that "quickness" for which the good old town itself has been so long celebrated. Panting for a full breath of "unadulterate air," to be found in abundance at Allerton, we gladly escape from beneath the shade of the tall chimneys of Thornton Road,

" Whose Stygian throats breathe darkness all day long,"

and soon find the atmosphere to improve wonderfully. Leaving the Allerton Road, and passing close by the handsome residence of Mr. J. B. Popplewell, we seek for awhile the umbrageous shade of the Chellow Dene valley—one of the bonniest nooks in the neighbourhood.

" Here the smooth trunks
Of ash, or lime, or beech, distinctly shine
Within the twilight of their distant shades,"

while the sloping banks are in their season the abode of the wild hyacinth and primrose, succeeded by a prolific growth of that most abundant of the fern family—the common brake. Here are situated the two service reservoirs of the Bradford Corporation, and in their construction Nature and Art have been admirably combined. The water for these reservoirs is supplied from a fine spring at Manywells, near Hewenden. A short stroll brings us to Allerton main street.

Whatever Allerton *may* become, it has little for which to thank the distant past. It was reserved for the quickening energy born of the nineteenth century—the "steam era" which has dotted the countryside with so many similar thriving communities—to give it some appearance of a village, in place of the three or four clusters of dwellings at isolated distances which were sufficient under the older dispensation. The township, however, has a history which is not the less necessary to be preserved, even if it may not contain within its annals those soul-stirring episodes which "live in description and look green in song." Soon after the Conquest the manor became the property of

the Thorntons, and continued in the possession of this family until the reign of Edward III. (1327), when it passed to the Bollings of Bolling Hall, along with the manor of Thornton. It so continued until the marriage of Rosamond, daughter of Tristram Bolling, to Sir Richard Tempest, of Bracewell, about 1500, by which marriage the ancient family of the Bollings, of Bolling Hall, became extinct. A collateral branch of the Bollings was seated at Chellow until the last century, and other members lived in the old hall, since pulled down, which stood at the top of what is now Marlborough Road, Manningham. Their posterity are now settled in Wharfedale.

Passing over another century we find a second Sir Richard Tempest granting parcels of land to the freeholders at quit rents, "not reserving the coal and minerals," and this is known as the Old Land. On June 22nd, 1588, the following yeomen of Allerton and Wilsden had lands thus transferred to them, viz. :—William Allerton, John Illingworth, Thomas Hodgson, John Drake, John Northend, John Wilkinson, and Michael Bairstow. In 1670 an agreement was come to between Henry Marsden, of Gisburn (by whose family the manor had been purchased), and thirty-five freeholders of Allerton and Wilsden, whereby large quantities of the waste land were conveyed by him to them at one shilling an acre yearly free rent, reserving the coal and minerals, with royalties, suits and services to his court baron. The land thus granted is known by the name of New Land. Allerton continued in the possession of the Marsden family until the year 1794, when it was conveyed by deed dated November 5th from John Marsden, of Hornby Castle, to Benjamin Ferrand, of St. Ives, near Bingley, for £2400. Under limitations of his will, made in 1805, it came to Edward Ferrand, afterwards to his sister, Sarah Ferrand, and on her death to her son, the present William Ferrand, Esq.

In olden times the Thorntons and the Bollings held manor courts at Allerton, to which were appended wardships, suits, and services. The rents at that time were composed of small sums, with "the addition of roses." At a Court held the seventeenth of Henry VII. (1504), twenty-two freeholders of Allerton appeared, and "John Aldersley, a ward, was presented as being seventeen years of age, for that he held his land by knight's service and by a yearly rent of 22d. and a rose, price one penny." The rose must have been extensively cultivated when vassals were bound to deliver them to their lords by the bushel. But the Wars of the Roses trampled down the rose beds, and in the course of time a single rose came to represent the bushel of roses, just as the single peppercorn did the pound of pepper, when a "Peppercorn rent" superseded the original bargain. Courts were held regularly at


Allerton so recently as 1760, in a building situate in Allerton Lanes. Of this building nothing now remains. It was situated, however, just at the entrance to the Lanes, where three good cottages now stand. A pair of stocks was placed at the end of the building fronting to the road, as a terror to evil-doers. These Manor Courts performed some important functions two hundred years ago. Among the actions which were tried at them were those for right of way ; for damage in respect to cattle trespassing, &c. A penalty of 10s. was laid upon those who succeeded to land in the manor without doing fealty for it.

According to a charter roll dated 1617 the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem had in Allerton a manor called Crosley, some of their property lying around Crosley Hall. This manor was not composed of contiguous land, but of detached allotments which had been granted to the Order by pious admirers in the thirteenth century. This was an order that took its name from an hospital in Jerusalem dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and was instituted about 1092. Many privileges and immunities were accorded to this order for their zeal in taking up arms against the Infidels, which they in turn granted to the lessees of their lands. Thus in a charter signed by Henry V. a curious privilege was inserted, to the effect that the tenants of the Knights should be "free from cutting the feet of their own dogs for ever," the inference to be drawn from this being that other less favoured subjects had to maim their dogs to prevent them from running down game. They had also the right to receive excommunicated persons into the churches of the order and give them protection. Proof of wills within the manor was another of the privileges enjoyed by the knights, and this right was demanded and exercised so late as 1795. Upon the present site of the house of Mr. David Fairbank was a building which belonged to them. Henry, son of Swane, of Denby, gave to God and the monks of Byland "all his land at Denby, without keeping any back, except three acres which he had given to the Hospital of Jerusalem in free and perpetual alms."

The common land known as Allerton Ley was excepted from that enclosed under the grants of Sir Richard Tempest and Henry Marsden. The position of this land is down the centre of the village, embracing the present sites of New Row, Copy, Wood's houses, the sites of all the mills, and down to the boundary. The former appearance of this portion of the village is a favourite theme for the old inhabitants of Allerton to dwell upon. A stream ran down the middle of the then common, covered with holly and shady trees. Here the Baptists were accustomed to baptise in a pond just below the Top Mill. Here might be seen, wandering in perfect

liberty, that humble animal which has been superseded by its more noble relation, the horse. Flocks of geese made the Ley their home, and here of an evening were wont to congregate the village combers and hand-loom weavers to enjoy their favourite weed. Horse-racing was carried on at what is known as the "Tide" around the moor, but was discontinued about thirty years ago. At the last race a man was killed. In the year 1840 an Act of Parliament was obtained by the Lady of the Manor, with the concurrence of the freeholders, for enclosing and parcelling out the waste lands, amounting to about 200 acres, at Fairweather Green, Allerton Ley, and Upper Green.

The population of the township was in 1801, 809; at the present time it is upwards of 3000. The rateable value was, in 1776, £198; in 1836 it was £1743; the present rateable value is about £9000. The total rate in the pound for 1776 was 10s.; in 1803 it was 10s. 5d.; and in 1874 it was 4s. 10d. in the pound. The average money raised by rates in 1783, 1784, and 1785 was £156; and in 1874 it was £2041.

Of the ancient possessors of the soil, the De Lacies, the De Thorntons, the Bollings, and the Tempests, few memorials remain to mark the time, now 800 years ago, since the first of them held feudal sway. By association Bolling Hall is the most interesting connecting link, but in the township of Allerton ancient landmarks are very scarce. At Fairweather Green, however, there is still, thanks to the care of Mr. Joshua Robertshaw, an old building called Shuttleworth Hall in good preservation, which is of interest on its own account. Mr. Abraham Holroyd, to whom we are indebted for some memoranda, fixes the erection of this hall at from seventy-five to one hundred years after the building of the Bradford Parish Church. It belonged formerly to the Shuttleworths, who were at one time owners of Bradford Soke Mills. Some twenty years ago Mr. Robertshaw spent a large sum in renovating it, the property then belonging to Mrs. Davidis, of Filey. The hall is a good specimen of the Elizabethan style of architecture, but the two wings are probably of a later date than the original building. Above the front entrance is a double cross of evident antiquity, resembling this——which would denote that the site on which it is built formed a portion of the land belonging to the Knights of Jerusalem. In the great central room, which is very lofty, there are three panes of stained glass having the dates 1627 and 1637, and the initials of the Sunderland family. Peter Sunderland, a former resident, in 1678 gave a rent-charge of £40 a-year towards the "lectureship" of Bradford Parish Church, which is still maintained from that source. This room had evidently been the private chapel of the family, as at the time Mr. Robertshaw took possession there was a winding stair-

case up to the gallery or corridor, and remnants existed of the pulpit, with a separate entrance for the priest. In the west wall there was formerly a huge fireplace, with carved mantel slabs in black oak. From these Mr. Robertshaw has had a massive couch made. In the rear of the hall are the remains of an old maltkiln, with the initials

P.
I. M., probably those of John and Mary Pollard, of the family of the Pollards, of Scarr Hill, who were formerly the owners. The Shuttleworth Hall property, which comprises about forty acres of land, is now in the family of the late Mr. Samuel Smith, of Field Head House. Since the enclosure of Fairweather Green, an approach has been made from Thornton Road, but formerly the road to it was by way of Lady Royd. It was at this time that Fairweather Green was really a "green," or piece of common land, whereon were held Chartist meetings, camp meetings, and other less creditable gatherings. Beauland's collieries, on the outskirts of the Green, supplied coal to Bradford and the country side.

A little further, on the opposite side of Thornton Road, stands Crosley Hall, a building of less pretentious appearance than the one last mentioned, but it was for long the residence of a family of some importance in the district. It was from here that the celebrated Dr. Richardson, of Bierley Hall, in 1699, married his wife, a daughter of John Crosley, of Crosley Hall and of Kershaw House, Halifax. The old hall and surrounding buildings have for some time been the property of the Fairbanks and Dalbys.

Allerton Hall, in Allerton Lane, is only of modern erection, having been built in 1777 by the Firth family. Joshua Firth, who resided here, was a man of some note, and had a bank from which he issued what were called "Firth notes." His monument is at present in the old church at Thornton. After Firth's occupancy, Benjamin Kaye went to it, and at that time the buildings surrounding the hall were a busy hive of industry. Mr. Kaye was in the cotton trade, and gave out pieces to weave in the surrounding district. His market was Manchester, to which place he sent a team every week, three days being consumed in going and returning. The pack-horse, however, was the principal mode of conveyance, and it was no uncommon occurrence to see strings of these primitive carriers, with a bell attached to the first animal, picking their way as best they could up the "bridle stye" from School Green, or by way of Shuttleworth Hall, to their destination. The price for weaving a cotton piece was at that time 9s. An equal length of the manufactured article may now be bought for less money.

Near to Allerton Hall is the old Workhouse, now a farmhouse, the property of Mr. F. S. Powell, who owns most of the land on the slopes of the hill up to Upper Green. Just above there is an old house at Bailey Fold, built probably in 1612, with the initials I. B. over the door. Joseph Lister, the historian of the siege of Bradford, resided here from 1660, and it was here that his gifted son, Accepted Lister, was born in the year 1671. Joseph Lister was born in 1627, and died about 1708. He lived in stirring times. Having received his education at the Bradford Grammar School, he was apprenticed to John Sharp, of Horton, to learn the trade of a clothier, but when the Civil War broke out in 1642 his master gave him his liberty, as all trade was at a standstill. While living at Bailey Fold he was visited by Oliver Heywood. Joseph Lister himself occasionally occupied the pulpit of the old Kipping Chapel, Thornton.

In Allerton Lanes, close by, there is another old residence, the date over the doorway being 1657. In a portion of this building lived Will Pollard, a well-known town's official. His predecessor in office was James Shaw, who was also steward for Dicky Hodgson, of ancient repute. We have previously alluded to the old Court-house, which stood at the entrance to the Lanes, and which would undoubtedly be a more ancient building than any yet referred to.

Passing along Grange Lane (which might have been a tolerable thoroughfare in the old pack-horse days, but is susceptible of considerable improvement now), we come to the Grange, another old settlement. Either Selby or Byland Abbey had very probably a farmstead on or about here. Continuing on the low road a short distance we reach the Oaks, another ancient farmstead, and thus, with the previous mention of Shuttleworth and Crosley Halls, we have made the round of the older portions of the township. The situation of these old habitations, stretching from Shuttleworth Hall along the pleasant slopes of the hillside up to Upper Green, is extremely beautiful; the land has a southerly aspect, and is open to the fresh breezes from the moorlands. Near the Oaks farm, Mr. T. B. Fox and Mr. J. Whitley have recently erected handsome residences. There are many other good residences dotted in advantageous positions throughout the village, which, with the open streets and garden plots attached to many of the cottages, preserve the pleasant country aspect of the place.

With the year 1750 may be said to have begun the commercial interests of Allerton, although for a long time previous to that date worsted hand-loom weavers and hand-combers had plied their trade. So far back as we have been able to trace the parentage of the trade, we

find that about a hundred years ago one Pearson, living at Street Gap, employed four combers, and gave out weaving to the district around. He was considered the "big man" of his period. In his time, every house could boast of its comb-pot, hand-loom, or spinning-wheel. About 1790, John Booth, of Denby, was a leading spinner, weaver, and comber. After him came Joshua Illingworth, Jeremiah Robertshaw, James, John, and Jonas White, Joseph Wood, &c. The descriptions of goods made were dobbies, tamminies, and moreens, and it was no uncommon thing for part of the wages to be taken out in "pokey." But the great time for hand-combing and weaving in Allerton was from 1830 to 1850. Twice a week two large loads of moreens were despatched to Bradford, while some dozen at least of small manufacturers in Allerton contributed their quota of the goods made here. In 1845 Allerton numbered about 120 hand-loom weavers, and about the same number of wool-combers. The production of goods would probably be 600 pieces weekly, but this by no means represented the trade done in the township, as many weavers were employed in other districts who brought their pieces here. What is known as the Old Mill, now one of the mills owned by Messrs. J. Robertshaw & Sons, was the first mill built for spinning and weaving, and was erected in 1836 by a company, the first occupiers being Uriah Ackroyd and Jeremiah Robertshaw. The shed adjoining it was built about five years afterwards, on land costing 5s. per yard. Joseph Collinson was one of the earliest tenants of this mill. Soon after its erection it was closed for a year on account of the slackness of trade. Prospect Mill was next built by Mr. Joseph Wood, and it is now occupied by Messrs. Jas. Wood & Co. Kell Row Mill was soon afterwards built by Mr. John Ward, but was purchased by the present firm of Messrs. J. Robertshaw & Sons, and run by them. Messrs. Robertshaw afterwards built the Low Mill. The firm of Fairbank & Holmes own and run the remaining mill, and the goods made by all these firms are those usually included within the Bradford trade. There are thus at present five manufactories in the village, employing over fifteen hundred "hands," and turning out products not excelled by any of the villages "round about Bradford." It is long since there was any "short time" in Allerton. Notwithstanding the successful competition of the steam machine, which has no "muscle to weary, no breast to decay," stray specimens of the old hand-loom "weyver" may be found pegging away a whole week for something less than the wages of a full-timer. In addition to the worsted manufactories, there are the grease works of Mr. Samuel Cockroft, and extensive dyeing and finishing works were erected at Fairweather Green, in 1874, by Mr. Dodds.

Allerton is noted for its stone, which is worked with great success, and is sent to all parts of England. In 1800 there was but one quarry, which was situated between Old Ivy and the Pogs, but this trade received such an impetus from the revival of the building trade in the district, that in 1868 there were no less than thirty-six quarries. Many of them have of late been worked out, and at present there are about fifteen in operation.

Prior to the erection of any place of worship in Allerton, many of the people went to Kipping Chapel, Thornton. At Thornton Tide there used to be what was called a "double lecture," held in a barn belonging to Denby Farm, Allerton, which was then in the occupation of Joshua Garnett; these "double lectures" were held at Allerton on the Monday, and Thornton on the Tuesday. The first chapel, the old Independent Chapel, was erected in 1814. The first minister was the Rev. Jos. Harrison, who had previously been stationed at Wilsden, and at Bury, in Lancashire. Mr. Harrison while at Wilsden had been somewhat popular as a preacher, and on receiving an invitation came to Allerton, where, although he had neither chapel nor church, nor even a congregation to depend upon, he began to labour incessantly, and was happy and contented with what the people thought proper to give him from time to time. After awhile a chapel was decided upon. Mr. William Smith, who then owned and occupied the farm called Ley Side, gave the site. No architect was employed to draw plans and prepare specifications; there were no contractors, neither was there any clerk of the works. Mr. Benjamin Kaye, who then occupied Allerton Hall, gave a description of what he thought a place of worship should be, and the masons and joiners worked according to his directions, they being paid about half-a-crown per day. The excavations for the foundations were dug by the working people, in addition to the payment of their subscriptions; and the large stone pillars which had to support the gallery were all scoured and smoothed by young women. As soon as the place was decently covered in, before a single pew had been fitted up, or even the gallery front had been erected, the place was opened for public worship. In addition to gratuitous labour, the chapel cost when completed about £1500. Mr. Harrison died February 21st, 1821.

The succeeding minister was the Rev. Jonas Hinchliffe, and during his two years' pastorate, the congregation passed through troublous times.

The next minister was the Rev. Thos. Hutton, a native of Eccleshill, who for thirty years maintained a consistent life among the villagers. Principally through his instrumentality, the heavy debt upon

the chapel was entirely cleared off, and the British School was erected by subscription. George Baron, Esq., lord of the manor, at the solicitation of his agent, Mr. G. T. Lister, gave the site of the latter. The cost of the building was about £450. The school has been since enlarged.

The Rev. J. M. Calvert succeeded Mr. Hutton in 1858, and worked indefatigably in the discharge of his pastoral duties until 1867, when the present minister, the Rev. W. Houghton, became the pastor. The congregation having very considerably increased, a new chapel was determined upon, which was opened on October 3, 1873. The site is a very commanding one, and was purchased from Mr. J. A. Jowett. The noble edifice is situated on the high ground opposite the Old Mill, at some little distance below the old chapel, and contains sitting accommodation for 1000 persons. The cost of the edifice was £9000, the whole of which was raised within eighteen months of its opening. The chapel possesses a fine organ, erected at a cost of £800. During 1875 a branch Sunday school was opened at Crosley Hall.

About 1749 the stream of Methodism flowing from Haworth (where Grimshaw was then minister) reached "The Oaks," a farmhouse in the township then occupied by John Pickard, who opened his house to any who inclined to assemble there. Amongst the earliest members were James and Isaac Duckworth, their sister Sarah, and Mary Haigh. Isaac Duckworth was afterwards taken into the family of the Wesleys. The present chapel at Allerton Ley was built in 1833, at a cost of £1400, when a plot of land, with burial ground adjoining, was, by consent of the freeholders, enclosed from the "waste." Previously, services had been conducted in a cottage at Maltkiln. A new school was erected in the rear of the chapel about 1858, at a cost of £700. The chapel underwent considerable improvement in 1867, involving, with the previous debt and the addition of a new organ, an expenditure of £1340. By an energetic effort the congregation cleared this off at the time.

The Baptist Chapel at Sandy Lane Bottom was built in 1824, and although just within the township of Heaton, it really belongs to Allerton. Three or four years ago a number of worshippers at Sandy Lane Bottom came to the resolution to build a place of worship nearer the bulk of the population, and by dint of energy and cordial support they have succeeded in erecting a commodious chapel in the main street at a cost of £2500, which was opened in June, 1873. In the basement is a large and lofty school-room. One noticeable feature in connection with this erection is that it has displaced the Pinfold, and so far as we know, the disappearance of that formerly

indispensable receptacle for "waifs and strays" has not been felt to be an insurmountable public loss. Several years ago St. Peter's mission church, connected with the district church at Wilsden, was erected in the main street, of which the Rev. George Robinson is curate-in-charge. In the several places of worship in Allerton there is accommodation for the whole of the population of the village.

Sunday schools exist in connection with all the various places of worship, with above 900 scholars on the books, which in a population of 3000, must be considered a good percentage.

There are five benefit societies in the village, with deposits amounting to upwards of £1000, and a Penny Savings Bank. There is also a flourishing Co-operative Society, numbering nearly 300 members, and making a yearly turnover of about £9000. The society has built a substantial store in which to carry on its business, and also a number of houses. The Temperance Societies number over 500 members, and Cricket is represented by a strong club.

The public institutions of the village consist of a Local Board, of which the chairman is Mr. Calvin Robertshaw, and a School Board. In proof of the persuasive powers of the last-named body it may be stated that perhaps in no place, in this neighbourhood at least, is there so large a proportion of children in attendance at school as at Allerton. In the five day schools there are in attendance 530 children between five and thirteen years of age, or 93 per cent. of the children of school age. As to the Local Board, we believe the members look after their own and their neighbours' "ways" pretty well; they have a sharp eye for obstructions and a keen scent for nuisances. The village is certainly excellently built, well lighted, roaded, paved, and drained. Recently a water company has been formed, and pipes have been laid which bring water from the Bradford Corporation mains at Thornton to Allerton. Some years ago a large addition was made to the cottage property, and building to some extent is now going on both in the village and at Fairweather Green, where a large number of cottages are being erected by Mr. Pratt Tattersall. In the agricultural portion of the township the land is laid out in farmsteads, which are generally well cultivated. The chief proprietors are Mr. J. A. Jowett (who, as successor to the late George Baron, Esq., succeeded to a considerable interest in Allerton), and Mr. F. S. Powell.

Thanks to an exceptionally pure and bracing air, the inhabitants of Allerton generally are a stalwart race, with a "will o' ther awn," just a little bluff, and not afraid of showing it. The salubrity of the neighbourhood is indicated by the number of persons now living whose

ages range from eighty to ninety years. In the graveyard connected with the old Independent Chapel there is a stone in memory of one family, who have lived and died at Allerton, consisting of father, mother, two sons and a daughter, whose united ages amount to 373 years, being an average of nearly seventy-five years. A selection taken from the village generally might be given of a dozen persons, whose ages unitedly make up 1017, giving an average of nearly eighty-five years. Originally consisting of half-a-dozen families—the Robertshaws, Fairbanks, Whites, Cockrofts, Knights and Illingworths—these names, with their subdivisions, are still largely representative of the life of the place. The “christened” names are nearly all of the plain Yorkshire stamp, and very many are taken from the Old Book. There is scarcely a “fine” Christian name in the village. It would puzzle an etymologist, however, to trace the derivation of some of the localities, such as Pogs, Mustard Pot, Fatty Coppy, Sodom, Pitty Beck, &c. The etymology of such names as Bright Street, Cobden Street, Gladstone Street, &c., it is not so difficult to trace. In few places is there less drunkenness, and its twin-sister crime, than at Allerton. There are but eight public-houses in the township. The village has long been famous for its musicians, especially for its choral singers. Music having become a passion, in which both master and man indulged, parties used to meet at each other’s houses, often until the “sma’ hours” of the morning; and at stated periods (which were arranged to fall when *the moon was up*, chiefly to accommodate singers from Allerton village), Messrs. Bass, Tenor, and Alto made pilgrimages to the Old Choral Society at Bradford for practice, and none were more regular in attendance than they. There is now a first-rate Glee and Madrigal Society in the village, and at no place is congregational singing rendered with greater heartiness and precision. These habits have doubtless had much to do with the peace and orderliness which prevail. When the borough of Bradford was incorporated, and the new police were formed, candidates who appeared from Allerton were almost always accepted, the saying becoming common, “Take him on, he’ll do. He comes thro’ quiet Allerton.”

With this significant eulogium we must take leave of the upland village, which contains features in many respects unique. As before observed, feudalism did little for Allerton. It is to be hoped that the present lords of the soil will for a reasonable “consideration” release land as occasion may require, and thus help on that progress which has but so recently received such an impetus.

THIRD DISTRICT.

COTTINGLEY—BINGLEY—HARDEN—WILSDEN—
CULLINGWORTH.

TO those strange people

“Who never pass their brick-bound walls,
To range the fields and treat their lungs with air,”

and to all who have a “soul for scenery,” we recommend an early acquaintance with the charming bit of country in which the various places are situated whose “short and simple annals” it is the object of this and succeeding papers to record. They all lie in one direction, and may be taken within the compass of a stout afternoon’s walk from Bradford. Making a start from the Saltaire Railway Station, the visitor will soon find himself upon the Bingley Road near to Hirst or Nab Wood. Fifty years ago the wood stretched right across the macadamised road and down to the valley beneath. Within a more recent period still Nab Wood was deemed a very lonely spot, and had the reputation of being a covert for those hulking gentry who live by “nabbing.” The direction taken by the old road may be seen at the entrance to the wood near Saltaire ; its outlet was at the other extremity, where it joins the present line of road for a short distance. Being well through the wood, the castellated boundary wall of Bankfield, now the residence and property of Mr. Henry Mason, comes in sight, and a peep over it discloses the pretty villa of that name, standing within ornamental park-like grounds. William Murgatroyd, Esq., formerly lived here, and here he died in his seventieth year. He was a native of Bradford, where his father, Mr. Nathaniel Murgatroyd, with his partners, Messrs. Ramsbotham and Swaine, built the first worsted mill in the Holme, Thornton Road. It had a steam-engine of 15-horse power. According to the latest return the annual value of premises in Bradford worked by steam power is about £180,000. At an early age Mr. Murgatroyd entered into partnership with Mr. Miles Illingworth, and commenced business in Union Street with three spinning frames. Both gentlemen were afterwards successful in business. Mr. Murgatroyd was an active promoter of the Leeds and Bradford Railway ; in 1854 he was elected Mayor of Bradford, and was besides a borough and county magistrate. Bankfield occupies a very beautiful position on a slight eminence, opposite to Milner Field, and is about midway between Saltaire and

Bingley, the "Throstle Nest of Old England." A five minutes' stroll brings us to Cottingley Bridge, and a very brief look round is sufficient to indicate that we are in a region of comparative purity, so far as air and water are concerned. The Cottingley Bridge allotment gardens, skirted by the River Aire, have long been noted for their productiveness; while the river itself testifies to the jealous care by which the purity of its waters is watched. In the vicinity of the bridge there is a substantial house, the residence of Mr. S. Weatherhead, solicitor, of Bingley. Curren Fothergill Busfield, B.A., brother to Wm. Busfield, Esq., many years member for Bradford, formerly lived here, and married Sarah, sister of Edward Ferrand, of St. Ives, and of Walker Ferrand, Harden Grange, Esqrs. (before those places changed names). From this marriage sprung a numerous progeny, including the present William Ferrand, Esq., of St. Ives, and Johnson Atkinson Busfield, Esq., of Upwood, Bingley.

To reach the village of Cottingley we must retrace our steps a little, and take the narrow lane somewhat ominously guarded at its entrance by a round tower, which is simply a relic of 1825, when the new road was made. About a hundred yards up the lane stands Cottingley Mill. It is the only manufactory in the village, and in it the worsted business has long been carried on by Mr. Thomas Baines. We note nothing particular for a short distance, until the "caw, caw" of birds reminds us of the vicinity of Cottingley House, an old family residence to the left. Close by is the village inn, called the Sun. This building is of so ancient a type that we failed to arrive at any nearer estimate of its age than that "it hed allus been thear." For many years in the beginning of the century it was kept by Joseph Foster, and afterwards by his widow. Previous to that Joss Smith had been landlord for forty years. On the right stands another old residence. This belonged to Mr. Joseph Hollings, of Wheatley Hall, who had considerable property here. Of course, there is the "never failing brook," or "beck," which, in its course to the river, forms several pretty cascades, and over it we must cross to enter the main street—a narrow artery leading to pleasant fields beyond, with houses of charming irregularity on either side, and one or two attempts at lateral streets.

A unique village is Cottingley. The principal, in fact the only public building of any kind is the Town Hall, in which the social, religious, and educational institutions of the district are located. This building is of such proportions as are not frequently met with in a district of 800 inhabitants. Sixty years ago, the children of the village were taught to read and write on Sundays in a small chamber, but this proving very inconvenient, in summer a barn was taken for

the purpose, and in winter the parlour of Mrs. Stanley. After some little time, however, a blacksmith's shop was procured, which, with some alterations, was turned into a school. It was also used for divine worship by different sections, and for a day school, when the village could support a master. At length a memorial was got up to Wm. Ferrand, Esq., to give a site for a new building, and also to Jno. Hollings, Esq., to give the old school and the land surrounding it. These gentlemen generously responded; a subscription was commenced; and the result was the erection of the building which is now the chief edifice in the village. The building was opened in March, 1865, having cost £3000. The hall is a substantial structure of Italian design, and contains large lecture-room and class-rooms on ground floor, and a well-lighted school-room in the basement. The cost was all liquidated by voluntary subscriptions. A fine organ was placed in the hall in 1869. The management of the hall, as well as of the day school taught in the basement of it, is strictly undenominational.

Cottingley House, previously mentioned, is a large old mansion, but was evidently built at two periods. In the latter part of last century it was tenanted by a fine specimen of the country squire of the "good old times," in the person of Colonel Henry Wickham, whose father was rector of Guiseley. Colonel Wickham married in 1761 Elizabeth, heiress of the Rev. William Lamplugh, of Cottingley, and had two sons, the eldest being an Under Secretary of State in 1798, a Privy Councillor and Secretary for Ireland in 1804, and a Lord of the Treasury in 1806. The other son, the Rev. Lamplugh Wickham, afterwards of Low Moor, married the daughter and heiress of Richard Hird, Esq., of Rawdon, and on the day of his marriage assumed the name of Hird. He was the father of the late member for Bradford, Mr. H. W. Wickham, and of the present Mr. Lamplugh Wickham. The Colonel, during his occupancy, considerably improved the grounds in front of his mansion at Cottingley, which then reached down to the river side. He was a staunch Churchman, as became one of such distinguished descent, and kept up the dignity of his order by driving to Bingley Church in a coach with four horses and postilion. His daughters were also good horsewomen. In Colonel Wickham's time the scales of Justice were held by few hands, and the colonel's judgment was sought by all the country side. Thus about Bradford it was common to hold out the threat to evil-doers, "I'll send tha over Cottingley Moor," meaning, of course, before the justice. Col. Wickham "sat" in the upstairs room of the humble village inn, the Sun, and had for his clerk James Booth, who for a generation was almost as great an institution as his master. James lived and had his office at the farm-

house now occupied by Mrs. Dibb, at Hill Top, and the entrance is still called "Office Gate." Col. Wickham died at Cottingley House in 1804. The family afterwards removed to York, where Mrs. Wickham died, and like her husband, was buried at Bingley Church. Cottingley House, with the estate, was afterwards sold by the Wickham family to the Ferrands, and Mrs. Ferrand, the grandmother of the present Mr. W. Ferrand, lived there after Colonel Wickham.

To Cottingley House belongs the honour of having given birth to a member of that illustrious band of hardy pioneers who accompanied the late Dr. Livingstone on his errand of mercy and scientific discovery. This was Richard Thornton, the geologist and geographer of the expedition. The father of this promising young man, also named Richard, was well known formerly in Bradford as connected with the old "Court of Requests." He lived at Cottingley House after Mrs. Ferrand left it. As young Thornton grew up he showed such an aptitude for studies of a scientific kind that his family, who had removed to Bradford, sent him to the School of Mines, in London, and when the great traveller, David Livingstone, decided to re-visit Africa in 1858, Sir Roderick Murchison recommended young Thornton to him, as an excellent geologist and geographer. Accordingly, in March, 1859, he left our shores with that prince of explorers. After spending some time on the Zambesi, he detached himself from the party, and accompanied Baron Von Decken, the German traveller, on his first survey of the Kilimandjano Mountains, which have an altitude of 20,065 feet. While on a surveying excursion he was attacked by diarrhœa, and succumbed to that exhausting disease at the early age of twenty-five. The account of his premature death on April 21, 1863, was furnished to Sir Roderick Murchison by Dr. Livingstone himself. In the words of Livingstone, "he is buried about 500 yards from the foot of the first (Murchison) cataract, on the right bank of the Shire."

"Where rest not England's dead?"

The old Hall, which stood at the top of the village, has recently been taken down, but the initial stones have been carefully removed to St. Ives. Upon one are the initials R. F. and A. F., with the date 1659. These referred to Robert Ferrand, of Harden Grange, who died in 1674, and Anne, his wife, who died in 1667. There was also a cross of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, indicating that the hall was held under the "Manor of St. John of Jerusalem," and, therefore, that the owner owed suit and service to that court. A notice of this Order has previously been given. A similar cross may also be found upon the good house near the Sun Inn. Several properties were made

over to these knights in this neighbourhood, as at Crosley Hall, near Bradford, and also at Wilsden. At Beckfoot, near Cottingley, there is an old farmstead dated 1617, probably once belonging to the Rawson family. Each corner of this building is surmounted by a stone lantern, another indication of the manorial right of the Knights of St. John, and the same may be found on other buildings higher up the dale. For the privileges granted, and in acknowledgment of the "suit and service," the occupiers of all these properties paid a small yearly tax, which is still collected, with other manorial rents, by the manor bailiff of St. Ives.

Cottingley can boast of ancient descent, as it was included in the Domesday survey within the parish of Bingley. The manor formerly belonged to the Copleys, who purchased it of the Sunderlands. Cottingley has not much to boast of architecturally, but it occupies a delightful position, backed by high moorland, and fringed on other sides by the pleasant woods of the Ferrand estate. The work of reclaiming the moors is apparent on all sides, and it is being prosecuted so successfully that large tracts of the formerly heath-covered moors have been rendered productive of food for man and employment for the labourer. The indications of successful cultivation are chiefly observable in the garden allotments on the lower moorlands, where fruit and vegetables are grown for the Bradford markets in astonishing quantities. At an elevation above the village, surrounded by healthy plantings, is Stock House, the residence of Mr. T. Baines. Most of the land was enclosed in 1855 by Mr. William Ferrand, by arrangement with the freeholders, to whom he let the land for £2 an acre. Although of undoubted antiquity, Cottingley has not made the progress visible in many of the villages around. Some improvement, both in style and convenience, has taken place of late, but the village still contains too many of that description of habitation which is allied to the genus *cot* or *cote*, from which the hamlet got its name. Cottingley contains a "Quebec," while a "New Brighton" has established itself on the hillside above the village, the numerous dwellings whereof are all the property of Cottingley working men. This little offshoot, however, is over the parish boundary, and is consequently in Shipley liberty. At "Noon Nick," a bleak, elevated region under the cleft of the hill, there is also another small colony established, in dwellings erected, we should say, independent of any "bye-law regulations" whatever. Up to 1825 Cottingley stood upon the main high road to the North, and in the old coaching days those obsolete vehicles passed through it regularly. One can imagine, what in fact was of weekly occurrence, the short "bait" opposite the Sun at

Cottingley, previous to making the steep ascent up Stairfoot Road, over Shipley High Moor, then by way of Toller Lane and White Abbey to Bradford. The occupations of the older inhabitants consisted chiefly in combing and hand-weaving. Thomas and Matthew Walker, of Dowley Gap, found work for some, but the chief employer of labour was Edward Berwick, and he continued so until his death in 1838. He occupied Dixon's Mill, Shipley, for about twenty years, but lived at the old house at the bottom of Cottingley. Besides manufacturing, he farmed the land now belonging to Mr. Baines, of Stock House, and that comprised within the estate of Mr. Mason, Bankfield, then belonging to the Hollings family. Though a large employer, and having the village of Cottingley almost exclusively in his employ, he resolutely refused to take advantage of the odious truck system, then so much in vogue. As a consequence, he had the genuine respect of all his workpeople. His son-in-law was Mr. Skirrow Smith, a substantial and well-known man in the district, who for many years acted as surveyor, &c.

In former times leather tanning was carried on in the village, as is indicated by the name "Bark House" having been given to an old building now pulled down, and by the fact that traces of tanpits existed near it and about "Quebec." Mr. Parkinson and Messrs. Robert and John Stockdale were connected with this particular trade in more recent times. The business of a "skinner" was afterwards carried on near the present Cottingley Mills by Michael Horner. The men employed as skimmers, however, were looked upon as "foreigners" by the combers of the village, and frequently "hides" were "tanned" in consequence! Mr. Horner's premises were afterwards adapted for the worsted business by Mr. Hollings, the owner, and let to Mr. John Sugden, and subsequently to Mr. Tom Ramsden. Some years ago the mills were purchased by Mr. Thomas Baines, who now employs many of the villagers in spinning and machine woolcombing. A new mill has recently been erected near Sandy Lane Bottom, by Messrs. Charles Sowden & Son, which affords employment for many who had previously some distance to travel. Cottingley village now contains no small number of "foreigners," many of them of Celtic extraction, but we have the testimony of the highest authority in the neighbourhood, namely, the worthy lord of the manor, Mr. Ferrand, to the "high character and uniform good conduct" of the present inhabitants of Cottingley. He says—"During the quarter of a century that I have acted as a magistrate, I have rarely known a case even of a trifling nature brought before us from your peaceful and orderly village."

In October, 1865, the Cottingley Mechanics' Institute, which had existed for some years in limited quarters, was removed to its new home in the Town Hall. The Institute was established in 1852, when twenty-two members were enrolled, a library commenced, and classes formed, which have ever since been in active operation during the winter months. The number of members and subscribers last year was 141. There are 620 volumes in the library, from which about 1000 issues are made during the year. Classes in useful knowledge are taught, and also advanced classes on scientific subjects, with considerable success.

Within a short time a Church school will be erected in Cottingley, ground for that purpose having been given by Mr. Ferrand.

Apart from those already named, Cottingley has not had many notables. If we recall such names as Will Whitley, butcher, Benj. Ferrand, weaver, Tommy Dibb, farmer, Jonas Knowles, Benj. Hey, Isaac Sugden, Benj. Smith, and John Burdett, it is not to record any other fact than that they belonged to the "older end," and have long since passed away. The village has had both its "grey-headed and very aged men." Old Joseph Verity died last November aged ninety-three. He had distinct recollections of incidents connected with the residence of Colonel Wickham, which happened eighty-four years before! Joseph Smith occupied "top o' Cottingley" farm for many years. The Listers were a prominent family, and the Ramsbothams were once very numerous in the village, but the latter have died out. An eccentric character and incorrigible beggar named Jack Lob lived at the Old Hall. When on his begging excursions his companion was Jere Wilkinson, of Gilstead.

The ancient parish and market town of Bingley is situated on the banks of the Aire, about midway between Leeds and Skipton, and is six miles from Bradford. The river, after slowly winding its placid course through the rich meadows and pasture land of Craven, enters at a short distance from the town into a narrow channel, and the valley becomes contracted, being bounded on either side by bold and lofty hills, which from some points of view appear almost to meet and block up the passage. To the north is the wide expanse of Rombalds Moor, swelling up to the height of 1308 feet above the sea level, while to the south and south-west the summits of Harden and Hainworth Moors are not much inferior in height. Hope Hill, on the east, rises to an elevation of 927 feet. From some of these hills, particularly on the south side of the valley, the most pleasing and panoramic views may be obtained. In former times the district was thickly wooded, and the

town itself, then but an irregular cluster of houses (many of them straw-thatched), nestling at the foot of Bell Bank, gained the appellation, once the boast of the natives, of "The Throstle Nest of Old England." The river, which is crossed by a substantial stone bridge of seven arches, divides the town from the magnificent estate of St. Ives; and the numerous walks which radiate from this point are not surpassed in beauty and variety in any part of Airedale.

The pedestrian may here choose according to his taste the kind of scenery which most suits his fancy; the shady woods, the "slowly-winding Aire," and the breezy heights of the Druid's Altar, all offer their attractions near at hand; but if a real "constitutional" is required, there are paths over the finest table land in England, which divides the valley from Wharfedale, embracing a survey of the country which is truly described in the following lines by John Nicholson, the Airedale poet, who loved to wander here and inhale the healthy breeze. He says:—

"Nor Skiddaw's top, nor great Helvellyn's height,
Show greater grandeur to the ravished sight,
Than is upon the crown of Romilie's Moor,
Where the wide scene is stretch'd from shore to shore."

No better pen than John Nicholson's is required to depict the attractions of Bingley and the neighbourhood. Its diversity of hill and dale, of wood and water, often inspired him, and on one occasion called forth the emphatic assertion that—

"All Yorkshire scenes to Bingley vale must bow."

There is much to interest the antiquarian in and about the town. In the time of Dodsworth, who visited Bingley in 1621, there was a park existing, and on Bailey Hill he found evidences of a castle. Excepting these fragmentary records, nothing now remains of the existence of the latter structure.

The Druid's Altar just mentioned is a bold and rocky precipice on the right bank of the river, crowned on its summit with huge blocks of millstone grit, on one of which is pointed out the spot where sacrifices were offered in connection with the dark and mysterious worship of the Druids. The other great stone, crowded with the initials of numerous visitors, is thought by some to have been used as a platform for the officiating priests while performing their religious ceremonies and delivering their injunctions to the awe-struck multitude below. The position of the rocks, well elevated above the adjoining woods (so favourable for their sacred groves), decidedly lends confirmation to the tradition that the valley of Bingley was once the residence of the

ancient priests of the Britons. Of this huge crag and its traditional uses, Nicholson says in his "Airedale of Ancient Times":—

"The rock, which yet retains the Altar's name,
Had honours paid, and mighty was its fame;
There, 'tis presumed, the mistletoe was laid,
While to their unknown gods the Druids pray'd;
There were domestic quarrels made to cease,
And foes at variance thence return'd in peace.
Unlike the various priests of modern days,
So diff'rent that they teach a thousand ways;
And tho' they boast superior knowledge giv'n,
Who knows but Druids taught the way to heav'n?"

The Roman road from *Olicana* (Ilkley) to *Mancunium* (Manchester) traversed Bingley parish for a distance of seven miles, and until very recently was visible as a paved way in several places upon Harden Moor, and also upon Rombalds Moor, passing Upwood directly towards the village of Ilkley. The late Mr. Busfield, M.P., broke up at various times nearly a mile of this road within his property. The Roman road from Ilkley to Ribchester, another important station, touched upon the extremity of this parish near Elam, crossing the Aire at Longlands Ford; and near to the supposed line of this road was found, in 1775, what was probably a military chest, hidden on some sudden emergency, containing a vast number of Roman coins. The following account will be found appended to Thoresby's Catalogue of Antiquities in the "History of Leeds":—"The next is perhaps the noblest discovery ever made in Roman Britain. On March 7th, 1775, as a farmer was making a drain in a field at Morton Banks, near Bingley, he struck upon the remains of a copper chest about twenty inches beneath the surface, which contained nearly 100lbs. weight of Roman denarii. There was also in the chest a silver image (I have not heard of what deity) about six inches long. They included every Emperor from Nero to Pupienus, Pertinax and Didus Julianus only excepted, together with many Empresses, and a variety of reverses."

At the time of Domesday, Bingley was the land of Ernegis or Erneis de Burun, and is thus described:—

"Manor. In Bingleheia Gospatric had four carucates of land subject to Danegeld. There is land to two ploughs. Ernegis de Burun has it and it is waste. In the time of King Edw. it was worth four pounds. Wood pasturable two leagues long and one broad. The whole manor four leagues long and one broad. Within this boundary is contained this soke: Beldune (Baildon), two carucates; Cotingelei (Cottingley), two carucates; Helguic (Eldwick), one carucate; Muceltuioit (Micklethwaite), one carucate; Mardelei (Marley), one carucate; Hateltum (Harden), one carucate. Together, subject to Danegeld, eight carucates. There is land to four ploughs. They are all waste."

Such was the desolate picture Bingley presented after the Conquest. No mention was made of a church, but it was not required, and consequently few comparatively are mentioned in the Domesday Record. We cannot be certain as to the extent of land at this time cultivated within the boundaries of the manor. According to *Selden*, the carucate varied with the soil and the mode of husbandry, and the number of acres in it ranged at about 100. It originally meant as much as could be ploughed in a year, from *caruca*, a plough.

As already indicated, the manor was given by the Conqueror to Erneis de Burun. It afterwards reverted to the Crown as an escheat, probably by reason of the failure of Erneis de Burun's issue. It was then given by Henry I. to William de Paganel, in whose family it continued three generations, when it fell to Robert de Gant by marriage with Alice, the grandchild and heiress of the said William de Paganel. Robert de Gant died in 1192, leaving issue Avicia—like her mother—an only child, who, marrying Robert Fitzharding, carried the manor as part of her dowry to that person, who assumed his wife's paternal name of Gant. The issue of their marriage was Maurice de Gant, a man of great possessions and influence in his day. To this Maurice and his heirs King John confirmed (A.D. 1213) the manor of Bingley, and by charter granted him also a market. The following is a copy of the charter :—

"*John*, by the grace of God, King of England, &c. *To all*, &c. *Know* ye that we have granted, and by our Charter confirmed, to Maurice de Gaunt, that he may have a market at his Manor of Bingley each week on Sunday, so nevertheless that that market be not to the injury of the neighbouring markets. Wherefore we will and strictly enjoin that the aforesaid Maurice and his heirs have the aforesaid market in the aforesaid Manor of Bingley for ever, well in peace, freely and quietly, with all liberties and free customs belonging to a market of this sort, as is aforesaid. Witnesses, the Lord Peter, Bishop of Winchester ; William, Earl of Salisbury, my brother ; William, Earl of Arundel ; William Briwerre, Hugh de Nevill, John Fitz Hugh. Given by the hand of Master Richard du Marais, Archdeacon of Northumberland, at the Tower of London, 15th day of May, 19th year of our Reign."

Maurice de Gant afterwards fell into disgrace with the King, and, as a consequence, forfeited his manors and castles ; and Bingley was thereupon given to Philip d'Aubigné. But Gant appears soon to have made peace with John's successor, Henry III., as we find recorded in the second year of his reign a letter addressed by the King to the Sheriff of Yorkshire :—

"Know thou that Maurice de Gaunt came to our fealty and service ; and, therefore, we enjoin thee that thou make to him, without delay, such seizin of all his lands in thy bailiwick, as he had thereof on the day on which he withdrew from the fealty of the lord, King John, our father, whereof he had been disseized by our precept. Witness the Earl, at Westminster, 3rd day of November."

Maurice de Gant, thus restored to royal favour, survived until 1230, when he died the fourteenth Henry III., without issue, having by deed given to the King divers manors, to the exclusion of his sister Eva (or half-sister, for it appears uncertain which), who had married Thomas de Harpetre, and left a son Robert. In the same year the King granted the Manor of Bingley to William de Cantilupe. In this family it remained three generations, when Milicent, co-heiress of William de Cantilupe, married Eudo la Zouch, and died leaving issue Ellen, her only child and heiress, who married Sir John de Harcourt, and thus brought the manor to the Harcourts. Sir John died 1330, and we next find it vested in Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard de Harcourt, who, at the close of the fourteenth century, married Sir Thos. Astley, second son of Thomas Lord Astley, and in this family the Manor of Bingley remained for more than two hundred years.

In 1597 we find the Astleys of Pateshall (for that was their seat, in Staffordshire), selling lands at Bingley, and most probably about this period the manor was sold to the Walkers, who were in possession in the seventeenth century. By them it was sold to Hugh Currer, Esq., of Marley, whose grandson, about the middle of the seventeenth century, sold it to Robert Benson, the father of the first Lord Bingley, whose descendant in the female line, George Lane Fox, Esq., of Bramham Park, is the present owner.

Though little public mention is made of Bingley for a considerable period after the Conquest, there is abundant evidence to show that it furnished stout hearts and willing hands when the public weal demanded them, and that its sons bore their full share in the grim work of those unsettled times. At the opening of the revolutionary campaign in Yorkshire, in 1642, many of the sturdy yeomen of Bingley, along with the townsmen of Keighley and Bradford, joined the force raised in the West, and placing themselves under the command of Sir Thomas Fairfax, went forth and fought in many a gallant struggle. In December of that year a body of about eight hundred strong, principally from Bradford, Bingley, and Denton, held the bridge at Tadcaster for a whole day against overwhelming odds. The forces under Lord Newcastle amounted to eight thousand men, of whom two thousand were horse and dragoons, and in vain they tried for five hours to force the position of this band of brave defenders, until darkness drawing on rendered further operations impossible. The Royalists retreated to the neighbourhood of Oxton, leaving upwards of a hundred dead and wounded in front of the entrenchment at the head of the bridge. After this, more peaceful times came over the country ; the dwellers in the Yorkshire dales had leisure to cultivate home comforts, and to foster

the development of the various branches of industry which have led to the present high position of the West Riding.

Of Bingley in the Middle Ages little is known, but doubtless many an interesting document lies hidden among the musty papers of old families, if only they could be persuaded to bring them to light. We have seen one, containing the names of all the persons within the parish of Bingley who were assessed in the year 1634 to raise the sum of £2 3s. 6d. for one month's sustenance of the poor. It is too long to give in full, but the following extracts will interest our readers. It is headed :—

"A Month Sessment maid 28 day of Aprile, 1634, by us Anthony ffell, Walter Milner, Isaac Hollinge, and John Faireburne, churchwardens; George Beanlande, Simeon Coller, Thomas Ellison, and John Whitley, overseers for this present year, for releivinge of the pore impotent within the parishe of Byngley as followethe."

The amount to be raised was divided thus :—

Morton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£0 11 2
Micklethwaite, including Eldwick and Priesthorpe	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 13 0
Harden, including Marley, Lees, and Hainworth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 13 2
Bingley, including Cottingley	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 6 2
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2 3 6

The above figures give an idea of the relative importance of those places at that time, and wonderfully assist comparison with the present period. Of the churchwardens, Walter Milner was unable to write, and all the overseers, except Whitley, made a mark. Isaac Hollings—a family now represented, we believe, by John Hollings, Esq., J.P.—signed "Isaack Hollyns." Before proceeding to collect this important rate, the document was endorsed "Confirmed by us according to Law.—T. Fairfax, Richard Sunderland, Justices of the Peace"; the former being, we believe, afterwards the Parliamentary General. The number of ratpayers was 167, and included Rishworth of Riddlesden, Maude of West Riddlesden, Bynns of Ryshworth, Ferrands of Bingley and Harden, Currer of Marley, Savile of Marley, Walker of Gawthorpe, Frank of Cottingley, with other old familiar names, such as the Fells, Leaches, Rawsons, Woods, Listers, Dobsons, Milners, and many others. It is, however, a remarkable fact that out of the entire 167 persons rated, only twelve are found in Bingley itself, who had to raise among them 2s. 4d.

It was reserved for the present century to witness the marvellous development of trade and locomotion which has since taken place in the old town of Bingley. The principal occupation of the inhabitants had hitherto been hand-combing and weaving, with an occasional variation of a few days' work with the farmers during their busy

season ; and the few pieces that were manufactured were often carried by some stalwart person on his back to Bradford. In 1801 Providence Mill, the first mill worked by steam in the parish, was erected and started as a cotton mill by three brothers, William, Charles, and Thomas Hartley. About ten years after this the Elm Tree Mill was begun by the Gott family, and soon after Mr. Jonas Sharp laid the foundation of Prospect Mill, which is still owned by the family.

The Sharps about the beginning of the present century commenced running a little mill which had been built for them at Harden by the Knowles family. Previous to this they had a small place at Cowhouse, near Cullingworth. The mill at Harden was used for spinning only, but in addition to that the firm gave out hand-weaving, thus saving many a long tramp to those weavers who previously had to fetch their warp and weft from Bradford and Halifax, or "putting out" places nearer at hand. The business of a master manufacturer in those days, however, was not such a straight and easy road to fortune as it is now, and the brothers Sharp, after years of toil, found the difficulties too great for them, and Harden Mill was given up. With genuine Yorkshire energy, however, the brothers once more put their "shoulders to the wheel," and went to Beckfoot, where their labours were amply rewarded. Jonas afterwards built Prospect Mills, which have since been much extended, and, with other mills, are still owned and occupied by his sons. James built a mill at Dubb, William built Airebank Mill, and John, the oldest brother, bought Providence Mill, built by Messrs. Hartley, which was afterwards run by D. W. Sharp, his son, and continued by the firm of D. W. Sharp & Son.

Joseph and Samuel Moulding, from Cowhouse, also built a worsted mill at Dubb, about the same time as James Sharp, which still belongs to the family. William Anderton, from Cullingworth, having first run a portion of Dubb Mill, afterwards erected one at Canal side ; and Joseph Leach built the mill at "t'top o' t'taan," now occupied by his son John.

Since the above were built, the worsted trade of Bingley, despite some occasional reverses (as in the year 1855, when it was at a very low ebb), has been fairly prosperous. At the present time, in the town itself, there are fifteen firms, many of them employing large numbers of hands, all engaged in this trade. One of the most recently erected factories is Bowling Green Mill, the property of Mr. Stephen Wildman, a very imposing and massive concern, which is capable of employing a vast number of hands.

In the year 1847 a new life may be said to have begun for Bingley. In that year took place two of the greatest changes in its history,

destined to infuse a thoroughly new and modern spirit into its existence. These were the incorporation of the town under the "Improvement Act," and the opening of the first section of the Shipley and Colne Extension (Midland) railway. More than a century ago the old London stage waggon had been superseded by the establishment of a "coach and four," which, "licensed to carry four inside and twelve outside," ran daily between Leeds and Kendal, and was continued until its great rival, the railway, appeared on the scene. The ruddy-faced driver with his lively salutations, and the red-coated guard of the "Union" mail coach, with the steaming horses and the "spragging" of the wheels, exchanging of the news, &c., will be familiar to most of the old residents of Bingley. But all this has been changed. Long trains running almost hourly now whirl their cargoes of passengers from station to station, and the number of business men who have passes to travel daily over the railway between Bingley and Bradford is large and increasing. It is worth recording that a bog or swamp gave to the constructors of this railway a little surprise and a good deal of trouble. It is situated a few hundred yards from where the railway station now stands, and in the direction of Keighley. During the construction of the line, the quantity of material which disappeared was incredible. At length, by laying down trees with their branches on, a safe way or foundation was secured. There can be little doubt that the land about here was formerly under water, and formed either the bed of an old river course or lake.

The parish, which comprises two townships—Bingley and Morton—contains 14,027 acres, of which a great portion has now been brought into cultivation. The population of the whole parish, which in 1801 was 4000, had increased at the last census to 18,116, of whom 7500 live within the limits of the Improvement Commissioners' district. The great bulk of these are employed in the worsted manufacture in its various departments. Some idea of its prosperity may be gathered from the fact that in 1855 the rateable value of Bingley, with Micklethwaite, was £30,501, while now it has reached £47,000.

The township of Bingley, which was formerly divided into hamlets, is now governed by two elective bodies—the Improvement Commissioners and the Bingley Township Local Board. The first is composed of forty-two members chosen from the district, of whom one-third retire annually, and their meetings are held once a fortnight. Under the efforts of this body a great many useful alterations have been effected, and the town is now well lighted with gas, well paved, and in a fair way of being well supplied with water also. The next great and important question, which will for some time to come engage

the attention of the Commissioners, is the extensive system of sewerage for which they are preparing, and which, when completed, will be of immense utility to the town and suburbs. The Local Board is composed of nine members, of whom one-third retire annually, and its meetings are monthly. There cannot be a doubt as to the great usefulness of these two bodies, and great additions have been made to the comfort and convenience of the inhabitants, though certainly heavy calls have to be made upon the ratepayers in return. From an inquiry held in Dec. 1875, it is probable that an addition will be made to the district of the Commissioners, which will be taken from that managed by the Local Board.

Though, as previously stated, the present lord of the manor is Mr. George Lane Fox, yet the real "squire" of the parish is Mr. William Ferrand, who is deputy-lieutenant of the West Riding and chairman of the Bingley and Keighley Petty Sessional Division, and whose mansion, situated on the plateau overlooking the road from Bingley to Harden, we shall have occasion to visit. The estate, which comprises a great portion of the old hamlets of Harden, Cottingley, and Marley, abounds with objects and places of interest, and, to use the words of Whitaker, the historian of Craven, "in extent of view, richness of scenery, and wild and rocky distances, every situation in Airedale to the north must yield to St. Ives."

The village of Marley seems to have given the name to a family at an early period, for in the ninth year of Edward II., a "Peter de Marthley and Ralph de Ilketon" were lords of the adjoining manor of Morton. This place was for some time the residence of the Currers, and as stated in the pedigree, "William Curre, of Marley, who married Isabel, daughter of Christopher Maud, Esq., of Holling Hall, was the son of the first Hugh Curre of Kildwick, and elder brother of Henry of Kildwick, who died 19th of August, 1568." Marley Hall was rebuilt by John Saville, Esq., in the year 1627, and his arms and initials are still to be seen in several places. This Mr. Saville kept his hal or jester, and this noted "Sil o' Marley" was no long time since referred to traditionally by old people in the neighbourhood. The Marley Hall estate was for many years in the Parker family, and was sold by Mr. Parker, of Browsholme, to Mrs. Sarah Ferrand, of St. Ives, in the year 1842.

Riddlesden Hall, on the other side of the river, is another large and ancient mansion, the more modern portion, which looks down the valley, having been built about two centuries ago. After the Conquest, the first lord of Riddlesden to be met with is Simon de Montalt, living in 1160. The daughter of Simon de Montalt, descendant of the above,

married Robt. Paslew, founder of another family which held possession of Riddlesden until the commencement of the seventeenth century. The estate came into the Rishworth family by the marriage of John Rishworth, Esq., to Ellen, sister and co-heiress of Francis Paslew, who died 1603. They had issue John Rishworth, of Riddlesden, who, with his son Richard, sold the estate to the Murgatroyds. According to tradition, the Murgatroyds were, by some equivocal process of law, forcibly ejected from the place; and so strong was the popular sympathy of the neighbourhood in their favour, that the River Aire is said to have altered its course out of sullen resentment at the circumstance! According to a date on a stone over the garden door, E. and H. Starkey had obtained possession and made some alterations prior to the year 1692, and from that time to the present the Riddlesden Hall property has remained in the hands of their posterity, though now let and used as a farmhouse. Between Riddlesden Hall and Marley Hall is supposed to be the place where

"The fords, which once the Roman cohorts cross'd,
Filled up with sand, are now for ever lost."

West Riddlesden Hall is a decent structure, in the Elizabethan style of architecture, and was for a long time the residence of the Mauds, and after them, failing male issue, the Leaches came into possession. The way in which the Leaches acquired this estate was very remarkable. The tradition is that the last of the Mauds who owned the estate reared a family of seven sons and one daughter. The daughter danced at the marriage feast of her seven brothers in succession, every one of whom died childless. She married in 1634 John Leach, and surviving all her brothers, ultimately carried the property over to that family. The family resided here till the year 1854, when it became extinct by the death of Mr. William Leach, the last of two worthy brothers who had lived in harmony together three-quarters of a century. The estate is now the property, by purchase, of the Greenwood family.

Ryshworth Hall two centuries ago became the seat of the Busfeild family, and is now the property of William Busfeild Ferrand, Esq. It is on the road from Bingley to Riddlesden. There cannot be a doubt that at one time it possessed a park of no mean order, as abundance of wood has been levelled from time to time on every side of the house, and the

"Woods in Rishworth's verdant dale,
Which oft have echoed to the horn!"

have bequeathed to us a few very venerable and gigantic trees yet standing in the grounds. Alfred Harris, Esq., now of Oxton Hall,

Tadcaster, a member of the eminent banking firm of his name at Bradford, resided for some years at Ryshworth Hall.

Gawthorpe Hall, once the residence of the Benson family, and intimately connected with the fortunes of Bingley, is pleasantly situated on the north side of the valley, and about half a mile distant from the town. The prospect from the west front of this house is strikingly beautiful, looking up the valley, and especially towards sunset, when the slanting rays of the sun fall on the multitudinous bends of the river. Here it is

“Where winding Aire, enamoured of the place,
Moves on so slow, it seems to stop and gaze.”

This old building, after being the property of the lords of the manor for centuries, was sold a few years ago, the purchaser being Major Salmond, of Bradford, who now resides there.

The old Vicarage on the road to Eldwick, though not now used as a vicarage, has been for generations the home of a truly loyal and hospitable family. It is, however, fast losing its greatest charm; the rows of stately old trees which almost encircled it, and which formerly lined the walk to the church, have now almost disappeared by the hand of Time.

Myrtle Grove is another old mansion, built by Johnson Atkinson Busfield, in 1772, and which was described by John Wesley as a “little Paradise.” Indeed, it would be difficult to find a situation more attractive. The place was known a century ago as Spring Head, and consisted of a farm-house, but in the hands of Mr. Busfield it became Myrtle Grove. It was occupied by him until 1805, when the estate was sold. It afterwards became the residence of General Twiss, and is now the property of the trustees of his son-in-law, the late Walker Ferrand, Esq. Myrtle Grove has for many years been occupied jointly by Mr. Alfred Sharp and his brother, Mr. William Sharp.

The Rev. Oliver Heywood, who visited Bingley soon after the Ejectment, has left on record in his Diary some curious notes of the former gentry of the neighbourhood. He says:—

“I being in Bingley parish August 13, 1672, they were discoursing of the decay there was of persons of quality; and I can say, since I knew that place, there is a decay of houses and families: Mr. Saville, of Marley; Mr. Frank, of Cottingley; Mr. Binns, of Rushforth; Mr. Murgatroyd, of Riddlesden; Mr. Murgatroyd, of Greenhill; Mr. Currow, of Nostrop; Mr. Johnson, and others. Some are in debt; some imprisoned; some rooted out, title, name; some dead, posterity beggars. Mr. Saville sold his land, lived a sharking, wandering life, died in an ale-house at Elland, January 8, 1668. Mr. Binns, the owner of Rushforth Hall, was a justice of the peace, and a great enemy of the Puritans in the three or four years that he lived after the Restoration. He was a witty man! Left some three sons and as many

daughters, and his estate encumbered with a debt of £2000. The eldest son was improvident, spent apace; borrowed £700 of Mr. Benson, clerk of assize, who, to recover it, compelled him to sell his land, which he did to Mr. Busfeild, of Leeds, for £2900, out of which, when Mr. Benson was paid, and the portions to the younger children, nothing remained for him. He became besotted."

Of the owners of Riddlesden Hall, Mr. Heywood's account is even less favourable. He says:—

"In the time of the war it was sold to Mr. James Murgatroyd by Mr. Rushworth, a man of indifferent character, who reserved a room for his own use, and as much corn and malt as would maintain him, but sold them also, and died miserably at Keighley. Of his two sons, the eldest, named John, died in York Castle a prisoner for debt, and his younger son lived in an extremely poor condition at Riddlesden. The Murgatroyds were no better. John Murgatroyd succeeded his father; he was a profane, debauched man; disinherited his eldest son, who married a daughter of Mr. Saville, of Marley. The other four sons inherited the estate in quick succession, killing themselves by intemperance. When they were dead the estate came to the eldest, who held it five years, then mortgaged it."

Then came the sale of Riddlesden Hall, which Mr. Heywood says was an excellent house, built new by Mr. James Murgatroyd, who was accounted worth £2000 a year.

The Parish Church of Bingley, around which much historical interest gathers, next claims attention. The old Norman Church, which preceded the present structure, was built by William de Paganel early in the twelfth century, and by him given to the Priory of Drax, near Selby (of which he was also the founder). The fabric of the church is generally supposed to have been restored, or more properly, rebuilt, in the early part of Henry VIII., as that was the great era of enlarging and restoring churches in the Deanery of Craven, but that portion of the tower which comprises the entrance and west window has all the appearance of having been built at a much earlier period. The choir is said by tradition to have been rebuilt by Richard Wylson, Prior of Drax, and Suffragan Bishop of Negropont, afterwards Bishop of Meath, in Ireland, who is supposed to have been a native of the parish of Bingley. But it is more than mere tradition which assigns to Richard Wylson the credit of having built the choir or chancel of the church, for the fact was recorded by an inscription on the east window, which existed when Dodsworth visited the church in 1621, and of which the following is a translated copy:—

"Pray for the good estate of the Most Reverend Father in Christ, Richard Wylson, Bishop of Negropont, Suffragan of York, and Prior of Drax, and for the souls of his parents, who caused this choir and window to be made, in the year of our Lord 1518, and on the 26th day of the month of March."

There is a complete record of the vicars of Bingley from the year 1275 to the present time, the appointments up to the year 1504 having

been made by the Priors of Drax. Since the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536, the following appear to have been the vicars :—

- “ 1536. D's Jo. Scholay. Patron, Henry VIII. Died.
- 1537. D's Alex. Jennings. Idem Rex.
- 1572. Rob. Wood, Cl. ~ Eliz. Regina. Died.
- 1576. Sam. Oley, Cl. Eadem. Died.
- 1618. Tho. Howgill, Cl., A.M. Rex Jac. I. Died.
- 1662. Jon. Fayrbank, Cl., A.M. Rex Car. II. Died.
- 1687. Jac. Roberts, Cl. Jac. II. Rex.
- 1701. Gervas. Neville. William III. Rex.
- 1714. Thomas Ferrand.
- 1740. Richard Hartley, A.B. Rex George II.
- 1792. Samuel Clapham, A.M. Rex George III.
- 1797. Richard Hartley, D.D. Idem.
- 1837. James Cheadle, M.A. Lord Chancellor. Died.
- 1862. Arthur Park Irwine, M.A. Bishop of Ripon.”

Of the ancient vicars, of course, little can be known, but a curious deed is preserved in the British Museum under the hand and seal of the vicar last appointed (A.D. 1504) by the Prior of Drax. The following is a copy :—

“ This indenture, made at Bingley, 20 Sept., 28 yere of ye Reyng of our Sufferand Lord Kinge Henry ye VIII. (1536), between Sir John Long, the vicar of Bingley, in county Yorke, on one part, and George Passlow, of Marlow, gent., on other part, Witnesseth that Sir John hath demised and to farme lett to George and his assigns the church of Bingley for the terme of 3 years next ensuing, with all tythes, profits, commodities, &c., paying yearly to the said vicar £10 at the Feast of Martin in winter, and St. Mark, per even portions, within the space 20 days after, &c., and the vicar shall pay all duties, ordinary and extraordinary, to the Church of York and to the Kinge, and also to discharge the cure of the said church as he will answer it to God and man, and that said George shall lay no claim to the vicarage house nor the ground thereto belonging to the canon right, which is £3 of money and six acres of land lying in Bingley Field and Mickylthwaite Field, &c.— Witnesses, Walter Passlow, Squire ; Miles Hertley, Prest, ; and Jo. Dobson and others.”

Vicar Long appears to have gone to his account the same year in which he thus disposed of the church, as he died 1536.

Samuel Oley was presented to the living by the Crown in 1576, and survived forty-two years. He seems to have become identified with the parish by family ties and the possession of lands and tenements. By his will, made on the day he died, he bequeathed to the poor of Bingley 40s., “ provided the inhabitants of Bingley parish would pay his executors within three months after his decease the £40 he had spent for the schoole and poore there.” To Samuel Oley, his son, and his daughters Sara, wife of Edwd. Shackleton, of Morton Banks, Jane, wife of Stephen Wright, and Rebecca Whitley he left his

worldly possessions, and died Nov., 1618. Doubtless this worthy pastor's descendants are still to be found in the parish.

A very different man we may assume Parson Roberts to have been, who was appointed vicar 1687. He retained the living until 1701, and seems to have relinquished it under doubtful circumstances, as grievous things were soon afterwards laid to his charge, not only by Mr. Neville, his successor, but by numbers of his late parishioners. The whole of these charges were referred to William Busfield and Benjamin Ferrand, who by their award, still in existence, in every instance decided against Mr. Roberts, finding him guilty in terms which must have overwhelmed him with discredit in the estimation of the parish.

Of vicars who have flourished during the past century amusing stories have been handed down, but we must leave these to a more distant period, when perhaps the diary of an Oliver Heywood may harmlessly bring them to light.

Whitaker says, "The church at Bingley is dedicated to All Souls, and is a discharged living, valued in the King's books at £7 6s. 8d., and certified to be of the clear annual value of £42 16s. 1d." The Church Register commences in 1577. The vicarage was augmented in 1730 with £200, to meet a benefaction of the same sum from Wm. Busfield, Esq., Benjamin Ferrand, Esq., and T. Dobson, gentleman; and in 1818 with £300 from the Parliamentary grant, to meet a benefaction of £200 from the Rev. Dr. R. Hartley and Mrs. Pyncombe's trustees. The church is endowed with £300 a year, under the Tithes Commutation Act. The living is in the patronage of the Lord Bishop of Ripon, the net value in 1818 being £233. It is now computed at £520.

One of the most interesting Saxon relics in England, well known even to the antiquaries of the Continent, is preserved here, which bears a Runic inscription. This relic is commonly called the "old font," and is believed by Professor Stevens, of Copenhagen, a great authority on these subjects, to be the base of a memorial cross, recording the visit of a Saxon King to Bingley in the middle of the eighth century. According to his rendering, the translation would be—

"Eadbert, son of Eathra, the King, made a good decree, bisited again Bingley."

All the rest is hopelessly lost. The Rev. D. H. Haigh, who has had a tracing of the inscription made, somewhat differs in his conclusions from the above. His reading is—

"Eadberht, son of Eathra, King, uttered a gracious ban. Ongus bisited Bingley."

Mr. Haigh infers that at Hewenden was assembled the army which Eadberht had brought to the aid of Oengus, King of the Picts, A.D. 756, and that at Bingley the alliance was consummated.

A complete restoration of the ancient fabric took place in 1870-71, when the west gallery and organ loft were removed and the tower arch opened to the nave. Much of the interior stonework was also re-dressed. In removing the soil from the area of the church several interesting relics were discovered, notably two or three bases and capitals of Norman pillars, which seem to point conclusively to the fact of a much earlier building having existed. These remains had been utilised for the foundations of the later church. The seats are open benches of solid oak, as are also the chancel stalls, screens, &c. The cost of the renovation carried out by the committee was about £3000. This restoration also comprised the rebuilding of the north or Ryshworth chapel, which was defrayed at the sole expense of Mr. J. A. Busfeild. The Ryshworth chantry or chapel, like that of Riddlesden on the south of the chancel, is probably coeval with the church itself. Four centuries ago the Ryshworth chapel belonged to the Eltoftes, from whom it passed in 1591, along with the manor and estate, to Edward Bynns by purchase. In this family it remained until 1672, when Abraham Binns, of Ryshworth, justice of the peace, sold the property to William Busfeild, of Leeds, merchant, in whose family it still remains, Mr. William Ferrand, of St. Ives, being the present owner. Anthony Eltofte, of Ryshworth, in 1537, bequeathed his body to be interred in this chapel, and after it came into the Busfeild family it was their chief resting-place. The last interment which probably will ever be made there was that of the late Mr. Busfeild, M.P. for Bradford, who was interred in 1851, in his seventy-ninth year. The chapel, as restored, presents an agreeable contrast to the one that preceded it, which was built 150 years ago by Mr. William Busfeild, of Ryshworth. On a handsome oak screen, which divides the chapel from the chancel, is this inscription in old English characters :—

"In pious remembrance of his ancestors, this chapel was restored by Johnson Atkinson Busfeild, A.D. 1870."

There are several monumental tablets inside the church, principally to the families of Busfeild, Ferrand, Leach, Sunderland, Fell, General Twiss, Wickham, Hudson and others. A handsome stained glass memorial window was placed in the south aisle, in 1873, by Alfred Harris, of Oxton Hall, to the memory of his brother, the late Henry Harris. It was by the well-known firm of Heaton & Co. More recently a painted window has been placed in the Ryshworth Chapel by Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Busfeild, in memory of their departed children.

This is by the eminent firm of Morris & Co. In the west window will also be found the arms of Bishop Wylson and a portion of the old Latin inscription, with the arms of Paslew, of Riddlesden ; Mohaut, of West Riddlesden ; Eltofte, of Ryshworth ; and Martheley, of Marley—four ancient families of Bingley parish long extinct—with those of Mr. J. A. Busfeld, by whom the arms above mentioned were restored in 1847, the originals having been lost in the wreck of time.

In the graveyard adjoining the church rest the remains of successive generations of high and low, and amongst them the names of many unpretending, but honest and true men, who have each played their part on the stage of life. Poet Nicholson is interred on the north side of the church, and a stone is erected to his memory, by one who was a friend to him, the late George Lane Fox, Esq., of Bramham. On the south side of the church there is a tombstone containing the following inscription :—"To the memory of Hezekiah Briggs, who died August 5th, 1844, in the 80th year of his age. He was sexton of this church 43 years, and interred upwards of 7000 corpses." Underneath are three verses, the first of which is as follows :—

" Here lies an old ringer beneath this cold clay,
Who has rung many peals both for serious and gay,
Through Grandsire and Trebles with ease he could range,
Till death call'd a bob which brought round the last change."

It should be said that Bingley has been a kind of little university in its way for the cultivation of the learned branches in the art of church bell-ringing. The successor to Briggs, the sexton, still holds the appointment, and officiates on the few occasions when an interment takes place, which is seldom now, as the churchyard was virtually closed in 1870. Thus the services of these two men have been carried over a period of seventy-four years. What hopes and disappointments have been laid at rest under these two men ! Bingley is one of the few places where the curfew bell is rung, and, until recently, the bell was rung also at six o'clock in the morning. Few peals in the West Riding are placed among so many different points of echo as the one at Bingley. A stranger, not seeing the tower of the church, would often be at a loss to know from whence the sounds proceeded. A peal of six bells was raised in the last century, the tenor bell containing this inscription :—"This peal was raised in 1773 ; Johnson Atkinson Busfeld, Esq., was the principal benefactor." In 1828 the tenor bell became cracked, and a new one was obtained, substituting for the original inscription the names of the vicar and churchwardens for the time being. For precisely a century, and up to the very last day of the existence of this peal, change-ringing, in the higher branches of

the art, was strenuously cultivated on the Bingley bells, without assistance from any other society. By the munificence of Mr. Walter Dunlop, of the Grange, the Bingley bells have recently been increased to an octave by the addition of two new bells, one of which is inscribed :—

“Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.”

On the treble is an inscription stating that the two new bells, with the frame and fittings, were added by Mr. Dunlop.

The Bingley Grammar School was founded in the twentieth year of Henry VIII., and was augmented by William Wooler, by will, dated 25th March, 1597, and with £40 by Michael Broadley's will, dated in 1613. In “Allen's Yorkshire,” it is stated that the value of this school was, in 1831, £400 yearly. It must now be greatly increased by recent sales of property. By a decree of Lord Chancellor Eldon, in December, 1820, it was determined that it should be conducted as a free grammar school, for teaching the children of the inhabitants of the parish of Bingley *the learned languages*. The Rev. Dr. Hartley was then master. It was placed under the new scheme of the Endowed Schools Commissioners in 1874, which provides for a portion of the income to be devoted to the education of girls, at the Mechanics' Institute. The present master is Mr. John Sutcliffe. The old building, which adjoins the churchyard, being found both inconvenient and unhealthy, a new school was erected near Castlefields, and the old building, after doing duty as a drill-room for the rifle corps, and for other purposes, is rapidly going to decay.

The National School was established here in 1814, at a cost of about £1500, towards which the London National School Society contributed £300; General Twiss, £340; Dr. Hartley, the vicar, £200; Walker Ferrand, £190; Edward Ferrand, £166; William Ellis, £100; and G. Lane Fox, £25; the site being also given by the Ferrands. The school has been supported until recently by voluntary subscriptions; and is now flourishing under the management of qualified teachers. Mr. Richardson was the first efficient master engaged for the National School. This gentleman was appointed postmaster in 1830, and held the office for more than thirty years, thus being engaged during the greatest development of postal business, from the time when the charge on letters varied from fourpence to a shilling to the era of penny postage, &c. During the latter part of his life he taught a school in Russell Street, and continued to teach it until within a few days of his death, which happened in February, 1875, at the advanced age of eighty-four. There are also schools under good

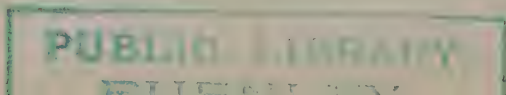
masters at various other places, and though the district generally may not come up to the requirements of the Education Department, yet a great improvement has been effected since 1814, when the greater part of a day had sometimes to be spent in seeking some person able to decipher a written letter !

A School Board for Bingley parish was formed in May, 1875, and has since been very active. The members are—Mr. Alfred Sharp (chairman), the Rev. A. P. Irwine, vicar, and Messrs. Robert Clough, Charles Crabtree, Samuel Watmuff, Alfred Hartley, Henry Butler, Abraham Smith, and Robert Holmes. The Board are already erecting schools in Mornington Road, Bingley, and at Harden and Eldwick.

A vast increase in the number of places of worship has taken place during the last thirty years. The first additional church was St. John the Evangelist's, the foundation-stone of which was laid in 1841. It was opened in the year following for worship, and a district apporportioned to it, including Ingrow, in the parish of Keighley, and the Manor of Hainworth, in the parish of Bingley, and denominated Ingrow-cum-Hainworth. St. Luke's, East Morton, in 1851, followed by St. Mary's, Riddlesden, were next made into a district under the incumbency of the Rev. William Fawcett, B.A. The church of St. John's, Cullingworth, was made into another district, and, lastly, the church of Holy Trinity was erected. The site of this new church is on what was until recently a grass-covered knoll near Ashfield House, the late residence of Alfred Harris, jun., Esq. The style adopted is one of the earliest types of pointed Gothic, and in its completed state the church has cost £5000. Alfred Harris, Esq., of Ryshworth, headed the subscription list with £1000. The district assigned to the church includes about half of Bingley, together with the villages of Gilstead and Cottingley. The Rev. Albert Hudson, M.A., is the vicar.

The Wesleyans from small beginnings have become a very influential body in Bingley and the neighbourhood. Their first place of worship is said to have been a blacksmith's shop on Elm Tree Hill, and in 1763 the society was composed of thirty-two members, who struggled hard under the guidance of the Rev. William Grimshaw, of Haworth, to whose unflagging exertions was mainly owing the establishment of Methodism in Bingley. The Bingley society was at first included in the Haworth circuit, which was very extensive, but in 1746 Keighley was made into the head of the circuit, and remained so until the year 1808, when Bingley became the head of the circuit, and has continued so ever since. The society in its infancy was greatly aided by the personal visits and support of the founder of Methodism—John Wesley—who

visited this place no less than thirteen times during a period extending over thirty years. The first notice of Bingley in his journal is dated Saturday, May 21, 1757, and is as follows :—"In the afternoon I preached at Bingley, and I have not lately seen such a genteel congregation." Respecting one of his visits in 1779, the following extract will be very interesting. He says : "Monday, April 19, I preached in Bingley Church to a numerous congregation. I dined with Mr. Busfeild in his little paradise." The place alluded to was Myrtle Grove, then the property of Johnson Atkinson Busfeild, Esq. At this period the meeting-house was a large room over a block of buildings which occupied the site where subsequently the first chapel was erected. Methodism seems to have prospered in this room, for about the year 1790 the property was purchased and the whole turned into a chapel. In 1784 occurs the following entry in Wesley's journal :—"Sunday, July 18th, I preached morning and afternoon in Bingley Church. Before service I stepped into the Sunday school, which contains two hundred and forty children, taught every Sunday by several masters, and superintended by the curate." Sunday schools were only just beginning to spring up at that time, and this one at Bingley had the honour of being the first in this part of the country. All subscribers of five shillings were "governors" for that year. An "upper master" was elected with a stipend of half-a-crown a day, an "under master" at two shillings a day, and two "assistant masters" at a shilling a day. The hours were from eight in the morning until six in the evening from the 1st of April to the 1st of October, and from nine to four during the winter. Bingley has ever since that time paid great attention to Sunday schools. Wesley's last visit was in 1788. The old chapel in front of the Market-house did good service to the cause of Methodism till 1816, until which year the Wesleyans conducted their Sunday school in conjunction with the Church people in the National School-room, but in consequence of some difference of opinion about the regulations, they determined to build a school-room of their own, and the result was the erection of the chapel and school-house in Wellington Street. In the year 1860 a new day school was erected in Hill Street. The chapel in Wellington Street has now given way to the magnificent building in Morningson Road, which was opened on the 23rd September, 1874, having cost about £13,000. The lofty spire of this fine building is an attractive object on Milner Hills. To facilitate communication between Morningson Road and Chapel Lane, Messrs. Sharp Bros. have recently constructed an iron bridge over the canal. The first sermon in the new chapel was preached by the Rev. Dr. Punshon.



The history of Independency in Bingley dates back for more than two centuries ; the first authentic mention of that body being an extract from the diary of the Rev. Oliver Heywood, whose first visit to the town was in September, 1667. In it he states that he lodged at Marley Hall (then occupied by Mr. Robert Parker, one of a family of note in those days), where he preached to a private audience, which, as far as was known to him, was the first meeting held by the Nonconformists in the parish of Bingley. He paid occasional visits to Bingley after this, preaching at the houses of Thos. Leach and Joshua Walker, and the effect of his services was to stimulate his hearers to form a church, and a meeting-house was erected, which is still standing, occupied as shops and dwelling-houses, in Chapel Lane. Of the precise year in which the old chapel was erected there is no record, and no information can be given as to how and by whom the services were conducted. In the year 1694, the Rev. Accepted Lister consented to preach there alternately with Kipping Chapel, Thornton. In his time the disposition of the inhabitants to attend a Dissenting ministry does not seem to have been very encouraging. Accepted Lister remained about seven years at Bingley. After his death in 1709 great disquietude occurred in the Bingley congregation in consequence thereof. He was succeeded by the Rev. T. Wainman, of Eastwood, in the parish of Halifax, whose ministry extended over forty-three years, and who died in 1746. For the next eight years there was no settled pastor, the pulpit being supplied every alternate Sunday, or nearly so, by the Rev. John Wainman, of Pudsey, the eldest son of the late minister. In 1753, the Rev. Thomas Lillie was chosen minister, and laboured in the cause until 1797, in which year he died, and a monument raised to his memory in the present chapel bears the testimony that he had been "the diligent, peaceful, useful, and much-respected pastor" of the old chapel for "forty-four years." The building in Chapel Lane having become inadequate to meet the requirements of the congregation, measures were adopted to raise a new chapel. A site was obtained, in a central position, near to the old Market place, and close to the banks of the Aire. The new chapel was opened on the 29th of April, 1818, having cost £1200; and the Rev. Abraham Clarkson, of Mixenden, was ordained minister on the 10th of June in the same year. The chapel was enlarged and underwent some alterations in 1845, while Mr. Atherton was minister; and in the same year the Independent Chapel at Morton was built. In the year 1862 new school-rooms were built.

The Baptist Chapel, fronting to the Main Street, which was erected in 1760, still retains its original site, though the old building has been

considerably enlarged. A new and much larger chapel is now in course of erection in Park Road, to meet the increasing wants of the congregation. The foundation-stone of this edifice was laid on the 20th June, 1874, by Mr. Thomas Aked, the style adopted being a plain version of Gothic, on the cruciform plan. A chaste tower, 90ft. in height, gives a distinctness and finish to the building, which will be seen from a considerable distance. The cost of the new edifice will amount to nearly £4000. The Rev. E. Cossey is the present minister.

Primitive Methodism was introduced into Bingley about 1826, although attempts had been made before that time to obtain a footing. It was not, however, until 1831-2 that a chapel, on the site of the premises now occupied by the Roman Catholics, was built. Although some success attended the next few years' efforts, financially the cause was very feeble, only about 5s. being realised at the first anniversary. In 1854 the present chapel was built at a cost of £1100, but in 1868 the want of increased school accommodation was supplied by the addition of a large school-room, costing £1000, the bulk of the outlay being subscribed. Three years previously the minister's house was erected. In 1873 the chapel was enlarged by adding six yards to it, the cost being about £800, nearly the whole of which was raised. A fine organ, by Foster & Andrews, of Hull, is now being erected in it. Altogether the prospects of the society are such as to promise growth and prosperity in the future.

The Christian Brethren have also a commodious place of worship in Church Street.

The Roman Catholics of Bingley have had a separate existence as a religious body about twelve months, those of that faith having previously worshipped at Shipley and Keighley. About that time, however, they purchased the building in York Place, formerly used by Mr. Harrison as a printing office, and they have since secured a piece of ground in Jer Wood, near Crow Nest, for a permanent chapel.

One of the most elegant buildings in the town is the Mechanics' Institute. The new Institute was opened on the 14th November, 1864. The building is a beautiful example of the Gothic, designed by Mr. Waterhouse, the eminent architect of that style. Situated in the centre of the Main Street, it is easily accessible from all quarters, and is well adapted for its purpose. The building and furniture cost nearly £3000. During several years previous to the opening there had been a steady increase of members. In 1863, the number was 341; in 1864, 411. The number at present on the books is 360, exclusive of day scholars. The various departments of the Institute are well maintained, the science and art classes showing excellent results. A middle-

class girls' school is conducted in the Institute, towards which the committee receive, under the scheme of the Endowed Schools Commissioners, a share of the endowment belonging to the Grammar School.

The new Cemetery for Bingley was completed in 1871, but the consecration took place in August, 1870. The Cemetery is situate at Bailey Hill. It was undertaken and carried out under the Burial Board, of which Mr. G. A. Smith was chairman. The total cost was about £8500.

The Park is situated on the brow of the hill overlooking the town on the north-east side, and consists of eighteen acres. Ten acres were vested in the churchwardens and overseers of Bingley, for the benefit of the public, by the Enclosure Commissioners, and the remaining eight were purchased by public subscription. The first sod was formally cut by Mr. W. Ferrand, of St. Ives, on the 10th of March, 1863, and this being the wedding day of the Prince of Wales, the people's recreation ground was designated "The Prince of Wales' Park." In the Park is an apology for a bust of that bard who has so often and so well described the beauties of Airedale. It is altogether inadequate for the situation.

A complete revolution has taken place in the occupations and habits of the Bingley people; as new generations take the place of the old, so new occupations have been opened to them, and a decided improvement has also taken place in their saving powers. Where scarce a working man could be found twenty-five years ago with many pounds, there are numbers now who own a cottage, and much of this may be attributed to the formation of building clubs, co-operative societies, &c., which offer many opportunities, unknown to the last generation, of making money productive. According to the 48th half-yearly report of the Bingley Co-operative Society, the sales for the half-year had been £23,895, while the share capital stood at £13,946. The number of members was 1280. The Bingley, Morton, Shipley and Keighley Permanent Benefit Building Society, which was established in 1851, has now become an important institution in the district, the head office being at Bingley. In round numbers, its receipts for the last year were about £100,000; and it has about 2300 members and 6300 shares. There has been paid into the society since 1851 £640,000; and it has lent upon mortgage £320,000. Besides this institution a great proportion of the working classes are enrolled as members in some of the many benefit societies which provide for sickness and old age.

In the midst of all the changes, increase of population, &c., which have been going on, the old taverns, with but few additions, still keep

their ground, and appear to suffice for the wants of the public. The first of these on entering from the Bradford Road is the "King's Head," one of the old coaching houses, where the "Court Leet" of the Lord of the Manor is periodically held, and fines and *amerciaments* enforced. The "Old Elm Tree" inn still keeps its elevated position, though the tree which gave the name to the house no longer graces the front. The "Old Queen's Head," with its neat front and attentive host, where the elders were wont to meet after the cares of the day, and gravely discuss matters of general interest, enjoying a "feast of reason, and a flow of soul," has been the scene of many a tough, but well-conducted argument. The "Fleece" inn, which formerly had to be ascended by a long flight of steps, was pulled down and rebuilt in 1845, along with a portion of the adjoining property, and this part of the street now enjoys the appellation of "The Strand." The "Brown Cow" inn has undergone little change. For many years the petty sessions were held in a large room here, now used as a school-room, and the Local Board of Health have their meetings at this house. The "White Horse," with its familiar gable, its famous "horsing steps" (which have been mounted by the father of Methodism), and its antique parlour, still offers accommodation for the thirsty traveller and the jaded horse. The "Ring of Bells," the remaining "old public house," once the abode of a well-known wit, has undergone some alterations, and at holiday times, &c., is now very busy with pleasure-seekers, who avail themselves of a sail on the river in one of the numerous small boats attached to the house. The great harvest for the Bingley boniface is, however, at "Bingley Tide," or, as it is called, the "King of Feasts," which is held in August.

The last fifteen years have been very prolific in new buildings in Bingley, but the greatest increase has taken place in the Park Road direction, or, as it is now called, "New Bingley." Here, places of worship, huge mills, and streets of houses have risen up as if by enchantment. In fact this new district bids fair, according to its present rate of increase, in no long time to rival the old town in size. In the Eldwick direction the slopes of the hills are becoming studded on every side with new villas, erected by merchants and tradesmen, who appreciate the advantage of getting above the fogs to which the lower parts of the valley are subject; and though last, not least, Mr. Titus Salt has built a splendid mansion on the site of old Milner Field, which commands a fine view, including Saltaire, founded by his father, Sir Titus Salt, Bart.

In the compilation of this paper frequent mention has been made of John Nicholson, the Airedale poet. Although this poet of nature

was not born in the parish, he was taken thither when but a few weeks old, and to the day of his death he retained a warmth of affection for the vale of his adoption equalled by few natives. John Nicholson was born at Weardley, near Harewood, on November 29, 1790. His father, a worsted manufacturer, having married the daughter of a farmer at Eldwick, removed there soon after John was born. The first rudiments of knowledge were taught him by his father at the sorting-board, but he was afterwards sent to a school on Rombalds Moor, known as the "Shooting-house," which was conducted by a person named Briggs, who in addition followed the business of a besom-maker. After remaining there a few years he was sent to Bingley Grammar School, then under the care of Dr. Hartley, but he only remained about twelve months. He was first brought into local repute as a poet in 1818, by a sarcastic composition relating to a physician at Bradford. He afterwards wrote a play in three acts, termed "The Robber of the Alps," which was produced at the old theatre, Bradford. This was followed by another called "The Siege of Bradford," which being played for the benefit of Mr. Macaulay, one of the actors, yielded the sum of £47. In 1824, he published his "Airedale," and other poems. A second edition was struck off in 1825. Unfortunately the publication of this work induced him to quit his employment, and travel about the country for the purpose of selling the work. He thus contracted habits not conducive to steady industry, and in addition became intemperate and improvident. "The Lyre of Ebor" was published in 1827, a good collection of his poems was made in 1843, and another in 1859. The poor poet was often befriended by George Lane Fox, Esq., of Bramham Park, who, on the occasion of the poet's melancholy death, erected a monument to his memory in Bingley Churchyard. On holidays Nicholson invariably retraced the footsteps of his youth on the wilds of Eldwick, and usually started thither the evening previous to the holiday. The evening before Good Friday, April 13, 1843, the poet left Bradford, where he then resided, for the purpose of visiting some relative at Eldwick, and called at several places on the way. It was nearly midnight when he left Shipley. He was found dead next morning on the bank of the Aire opposite to where Saltaire now stands. It is supposed that in crossing the river by the stepping-stones which then existed he fell into the water, but afterwards dragged himself out to the spot where he was found. He left a wife and eight children. In disposition John Nicholson was kind-hearted, frank, and without deceit. Naturalness of style and truthfulness of conception, combined with considerable imaginative power, characterise his poems, and recommend them

cordially to the hearts of Yorkshiremen. There is little doubt that had his powers been cultivated, he would have taken high rank as a poet. He was ever remarkable for impromptu verse-making, and it is said that many of his sweetest poems were written on the sorting-board with a skewer. The following well-known lines were improvised by the poet on his handing a pot of beer to his friend, the late J. Garnett Horsfall, Esq. :—

“ Oh for an everlasting spring
Of home-brewed beer like this !
Then with my friends I'd laugh and sing,
And spend the hours in bliss.
Then come old Care link'd with Despair,
For I with thee made strong,
Would plunge them overhead in beer,
And make them lead the song.”

There is a heartiness about these lines eminently characteristic of the writer. His own chequered career is, however, a sad reflection on the sentiment.

No notice of Bingley parish would be complete that did not contain some reference to Ben Preston, the “poet of the poor,” who, although like Nicholson, not a native of the parish, yet in his maturer years settled and became a freeholder in it. His poems are already widely known, not only in the immediate district, but by very many in other parts of England, who can appreciate hearty, soul-stirring lines—the natural outcome of an honest Yorkshire spirit. As a dialectist Mr. Preston decidedly holds a foremost position—his command of the many expressive Yorkshire terms being very apparent in his dialect pieces, for instance in his “Natterin’ Nan.” Some of his more serious poems abound with passages instinct with pathos, while many of his thrusts at oppression, and especially as bearing upon the poor and helpless, are clothed in terms of the most scathing irony. Mr. Preston was born in Bradford in 1819, and in his earlier years followed the trade of a woolsorter. It was during his apprenticeship that his first rhymes appeared in the columns of the *Bradford Observer*. In 1865 Mr. Preston purchased from Mr. Alfred Harris, jun., an allotment on Gilstead Moor, upon which he erected a house for his own occupation. Here, “while others strive how rich to be,” the poet passes an unobtrusive existence, content to “labour and to wait.” In 1872 a collection of his dialect poems was published by Mr. Abraham Holroyd, of Saltaire.

Having made a satisfying round of the good old town of Bingley, and taken a refresher at one of the old-fashioned “publics” previously

mentioned, the rambler will be prepared for what is yet in store for him in his course up the Harden valley. Crossing Ireland Bridge and taking the road to the left through Bell-bank Wood, he will soon lose sight of Bingley. Another pleasant route is by way of Cottingley Park, and through the magnificent avenue leading to St. Ives. As this is a private road the proper authority must first be obtained. This, however, is by no means difficult to obtain, the worthy squire of St. Ives, with well-known generosity, generally affording the required permission to roam at leisure through any part of his extensive domains. As the Harden estates embrace some lovely situations and prospects, and contain many objects of interest, this is a privilege of no mean order. While passing through Cottingley wood the visitor has presented to him many beautiful touches of nature in the silver-grey rocks and tangled underwood along his path. On emerging from the woods, rich glades appear, looking all the more verdant in contrast with the dark woodlands around. The scene is truly refreshing. Within the line of vision we have

"The verdant meadows and the dark brown moor,
The woods, the herds and flocks that spot the fields,
The stream meandering placidly adown the vale."

The substantial mansion occupied by Mr. Walter Dunlop, now called "The Grange," occupies a beautiful position upon a knoll to the left. It is one of several mansions in the Harden valley belonging to the Ferrand family, and was rebuilt about 1855 by the present W. Ferrand, Esq. At that time its present name was given to it, and the older designation of "St. Ives" was transferred to the old family mansion on the hill known from ancient times as Harden Grange. The Ferrand family originally came from Skipton-in-Craven, and were wardours of Skipton Castle. It was from William de Fortibus, Earl of Albemarle, that Hugh Ferrand in the thirteenth century had a deed of grant to himself and his heirs of the office of wardour. The Bingley branch appears to have been first represented by Christopher Ferrand; and his grandson, Robert, born 1597, purchased Harden Grange and other adjacent property. In more recent times Benjamin Ferrand Esq., of St. Ives, was lord of the manor of Cottingley, Oakworth, &c., major in the militia, and D.L. and J.P. He died unmarried in 1803, aged 73, and thereupon Edward Ferrand, son of John Ferrand, Esq., of Barnard Castle, entered into possession of the estates. Edward died without male issue, in 1837, and his sister, Sarah, became tenant for life of the entailed estates. Walker Ferrand, Esq., brother of Edward, lived at Harden Grange, and was a captain in the army. He was in Parliament at the time of the passing of the Reform Bill,

and, true to the Tory principles of his family, he voted in every division against the bill. The present squire of St. Ives and Harden Grange in 1839 assumed by sign manual the surname and arms of Ferrand, in addition to those of Busfeild, and, in 1854, on the death of his mother, succeeded to the estates. Mr. Ferrand was born in 1809, and married for his first wife a daughter of Captain Priestley, of Stott Hill, Bradford. For his second wife he married, in 1847, the Hon. Fanny Mary, daughter of the eleventh Lord Blantyre. Mr. Ferrand is a J.P. and a D.L. for the West Riding, and sat for Knaresborough from 1841 to 1847, and for Devonport in 1863. The old squire of St. Ives, Benjamin Ferrand, kept a pack of hounds, and is still spoken of by some of the older inhabitants, who remember his homely greeting, his leather breeches, blue coat, and wig, with evident satisfaction.

Before proceeding up the valley, the old soke mill, by the beck side at Lawns, will interest the visitor, and a short distance lower down the pretty trout stream we have another water-power mill, used long ago in the woollen manufacture by Mr. Petch, before there was any mill at Bingley. A short time ago, while in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Brown, it was almost destroyed by fire, and still remains in a ruinous state. The Harden beck seems to have been well utilised along its course by our forefathers, who knew the advantages of water-power, for a little above The Grange there is another old mill, the wheel of which was turned by water. During the earlier portion of the present century this mill was occupied by David and Joshua Coward, whose trade was in ribbed and plain calimancoes; and afterwards by Mrs. Clough for woolcombing and weaving. Close by is Woodbank, the residence of J. A. Heaton, Esq., which, as its name implies, is suggestive of sylvan beauty. The ancient residence, almost enveloped in climbing plants, bears the inscription—S. F., M. F., with the date 1635. These were probably the initials of Stephen Ferrand, who in the year 1624 married Mary Walters. A little above Woodbank is Cockroft Corn Mill, the inscription being R. F., 1707; and this brings us to Cockroft Fold, a little cluster of old houses on the Bingley road, with which is associated the name of the Bowers, the village shoemakers. Time was when the scribe on a "round-about" expedition need only have spent an hour with these knights of St. Crispin to have learned the entire history of Harden. In the wall close by there is a stone bearing this inscription:—"The soil and ground of the way from hence to Bingley Bridge belongs to Benjamin Ferrand, Esq., 1713." This significant announcement will give some idea of the extent of the Ferrand property in the vale of Harden, although the family possessions now extend much higher up the valley. At this

point the Rambler out for a short stroll may make his way to Bingley by passing along the magnificent and well-known avenue through Bell-bank Wood down to Ireland Bridge. If it be a first visit, he will thank us for having thus far pointed out a very pleasant ramble.

But the day being yet young, we mean to make the most of it. The feathered slopes of Cuckoo Nest Wood, crowned by the mansion of St. Ives, are before us, and, by a tortuous course, we wend our way to the plateau on which the hall stands, noting the exquisite bit of hill landscape to the left, which takes in Deepcliff and the summit of the moors beyond. A cordial reception awaits us from Mr. Ferrand. St. Ives, from its three sides, commands a fine look-out upon the surrounding country. From this vantage point the principal features of the Harden valley are seen, extending from Cullingworth to Bingley. Right opposite are Ruin Bank Woods, the "ruins" comprising an ivy-grown tower and arched window, having been erected by Benjamin Ferrand, Esq., in 1794. The present St. Ives was enlarged by Mr. Ferrand. Some portions of the old Harden Grange, however, remain, and notably the entrance to the hall, with the precautionary "peep-hole" by its side. Above the columns which flank each side of the doorway there are the Ferrand arms—the crest a mailed arm erect, the hand grasping a battle-axe—but the ancient escutcheon is fast crumbling to decay. On the pediment there is a very legible inscription, which evidently embodies a sentiment of more than ordinary meaning. It runs thus :—

" If thou a house shall finde
Built to thy mynde,
And that without thy cost ;
Serve thou the more
God and the poore,
And then my labour is not loste."

The old mansion must have been a good specimen of the Elizabethan style. In an old portion of the courtyard there is figured in stone a chalice and paten, and over a gateway the initials B^F M appear, with the date 1680, doubtless intended for Benjamin Ferrand and Martha his wife, who were married 1645, and both died 1699. In the summer-house adjoining there is carefully preserved the stone table on which the famous General Fairfax is said to have written his despatches while at Harden Hall ; but to this subject we shall afterwards revert. From a brass plate let into the centre we copied the following :—
" This table was at Harden Hall when the troops under General Fairfax were encamped at Harden Moor. MDCXLII." Other curiosities at the extreme end of the terrace are a stone coffin or bath (discovered

recently in making an excavation close by), and some curious fossil lizards in stone. Leaving this lower elevation we next ascend to the higher moorland by way of Grange Road, the reclaimed lands on all sides bearing unmistakable signs of the good "tilth" they are in. In one large tract, although at an elevation of 750ft. above sea-level, the autumn-sown wheat looked most promising. Skirting the edge of the plantations on the summit of the moor we come upon what appears to be a break or failure in the original planting. Not so, however, for although the spot is

"Marked by no colossal bust,
Nor column trophied for triumphal show,"

yet here rest the bone and sinew of many of our northern dalesmen who perished in the terrible struggle between King and Parliament from 1642 to 1647. This unplanted heather-covered space on the summit of Harden Moor is, in fact, a relic of the Civil War—a burial place in the centre of the encampment of Parliamentary troops, which for several years were commanded by Sir Thomas Fairfax, of Denton, near Otley. With an appreciative reverence for so sacred a spot, Mr. Ferrand, nearly forty years ago, practically said—

"As the ground was before, so let it be!"

and thus it is that a strip of perhaps a hundred yards in length remains vacant, guarded on each side by dark-foliaged Scotch firs, gaunt and grim as the sentinels of Cromwell's Ironsides! It is supposed that about two hundred soldiers are buried here, and the mounds or graves are now clearly traceable, although forty years ago they were even more distinct. Little is known or recorded of this mountain cemetery, or of the numbers forming the Parliamentary encampment on Harden Moor, but the earth entrenchments of the latter are still plainly visible in various places. The outer earthworks appear to have encircled the moor at its highest point from the Druid's Altar to the Pan-holes overlooking Harden. This would undoubtedly be an admirable position from a strategical point of view on which to maintain a camp of reserve, although we do not find that the position was ever attacked by the Royalists, or that anything above a skirmish ever took place in the vicinity. Tradition has it, but we simply accept it for what it is worth, that some of the British soldiers under Cromwell who were opposed to Prince Rupert in that hot encounter, marched from Harden to take part in the great and decisive battle of Marston Moor. That battle was fought on July 2nd, 1644, and its result sealed the fate of the Royal cause. It is certain, however, that under the terms of the Solemn League and Covenant, 21,000 Scottish troops crossed the Border in the beginning of 1644, and that the victory of the Round-

heads at Marston was largely due to the presence of the Scots. We mention this because, as will appear from the following extracts taken from the Bingley registers, some of these Scottish soldiers were still in the neighbourhood in 1647 :—

“ 1647—Sept. 24. ‘ A Scottishe man, a souldier, buried.’
Oct. 1. ‘ A Scot, a souldier.’ ”

The following extracts from the Keighley burial registers are conclusive evidence of the presence of Cromwellian soldiers on Harden Moor, and that some were “ slain ” on its borders. Keighley is at no great distance from the encampment :—

“ 1643—Dec. 7. ‘ A souldier that was found slaine on the moore was buried.’
1644—Jan. 16. ‘ Two souldiers was buried.’
June 18. ‘ A souldier of Collonell Cromwell’s buried.’
June 28. ‘ Two souldiers slayne at New Bridge, buried.’
1645—Feb. 14. ‘ Fower souldiers was buried.’
Mar. 25. ‘ Humphrey Bland, a souldier under Captaine Balsome, buried.’ ”

In addition to the above documentary evidence, numerous relics have been found, consisting of swords, battle-axes, &c., which are in the possession of families in the neighbourhood. The old people of Harden speak also of another incursion of soldiers into their neighbourhood at a later date. These were the “ Scotch rebels,” the followers of “ Bonnie Prince Charlie,” the Young Pretender, who in 1745 made a bold push for the throne of Britain. The last generation could remember the descent of the Scots from Harden Moor, and thence through the village on their way to Manchester.

At no great distance from the Fairfax encampment, but somewhat nearer the village of Harden, there is a “ cave ” called “ Pot-hole ” or “ Pan-hole,” about which some vaguely mysterious stories have been told by the residents in the vicinity. This cave was inspected by a small party, including Mr. L. C. Miall, Mr. R. Goddard, &c., in December, 1874, but no trace of human habitation could be found.

Descending to the village of Harden by the winding road from the moor past Lady Blantyre’s rock, we have a good view of Coppice Pond, a fine lake stocked with fish, and affording capital wild-duck shooting. The healthy trees surrounding it have mostly been planted by the present Mr. Ferrand. Upon inquiry we learn that that gentleman has, since 1847, planted no less than three million young trees, many of them firs, upon his estate. These plantations already form a conspicuous feature in the landscape. Almost enveloped in some older timber close by there are some ruins, which from certain indications are supposed to have been the “ smithy ” for the encampment on the

moor. The carriage drive from St. Ives to the old Keighley road affords an easy descent to Harden. The village of Harden contains 1650 inhabitants, and it is the largest hamlet in Bingley parish. In Domesday Book it is designated Hateltun, a form of spelling which would be scarcely recognised now-a-days. Like Cottingley it is now under the sanitary authority of the Bingley District Local Board. Modern Harden is almost exclusively located on the hill slopes called Harden Brow—a large strip of the moorland taken in during the last enclosure. Apart from the numerous freeholders (many of the cottages having been built by working men on the club principle), the bulk of the cottage dwellings are owned by Mr. Samuel Watmuff and Mr. W. Leach, whilst scattered throughout the hamlet there are numerous yeomen, who farm their own land, but whose families generally attend the mill. The principal village front is towards the road leading to Cullingworth, where the tenements are of the usual admixture comprised in most “main streets”—the butcher and grocer, the tailor and draper, each displaying their wares in friendly rivalry—interspersed, however, by private dwellings and the usual “publics.” Beyond this row the village only extends in detached clusters, like those at Hill End, if we except Rycroft, a little settlement on an abrupt shoulder of the moor, which may some day claim to be a village of itself. Already it possesses a Primitive Methodist Chapel, recently erected on ground presented by Mr. Ferrand, the lord of the manor.

Proceeding up the Brow we pass the old Thorn House, dated 1690. This has been inhabited by the Knowles family for generations. The present representative, Hannah Knowles, is eighty-five years of age. Close by we have Knowles Fold and Crowther Fold—“fold” being an expressive term for a small cluster of buildings, often attached to a larger house. On the higher ground are Lower Cliff, Middle Cliff, and Upper Cliff. Lower Cliff was the birth-place of the brothers Sharp, whose father and mother were well known and respected. The old house is now, however, supplanted by a handsome villa occupied by the Misses Watmuff. The principal natural attraction in this vicinity is Deep Cliff, which, as its name implies, is a rocky glen or gorge, through which the upper waters of the moor come tumbling down at particular seasons in rushing volumes. The glen is thickly wooded, and forms a pleasant feature in the landscape. Continuing the road round by the Craggs, we pass Moor-edge into the Keighley Road, and arrive at the foot of the Brow.

Here stands the large manufactory of Messrs. S. Watmuff & Co., where the majority of the villagers are employed. The older portion of these works dates from the beginning of the present century, when

the brothers Sharp (who afterwards took a leading position in the worsted business in the Harden valley) occupied a mill built for them by Mr. Knowles. Messrs. Whalley, Ambler & Smith succeeded the Sharps, but they eventually gave it up. After having remained empty for some time the little mill, with some acres of land, was bought in 1838, by Mr. Walter Milligan, who, in conjunction with his son, Mr. Robert Milligan, introduced steam-power. By them the premises were enlarged, and the village prospered accordingly. Messrs. Milligan were noted fancy manufacturers during the early days of that particular branch of the Bradford stuff trade, and it is said that *they* were the first firm who wove an alpaca piece, the material having been supplied by Mr. Titus Salt, who was then only a spinner. Messrs. Milligan afterwards put down spinning and combing machinery, thus requiring more hands. During this time the villagers, who had previously had the unenviable designation of "Harden roughs," were socially as well as materially improved, under the solicitous care of Mr. Milligan, and both father and son have still a name in Harden which many might envy. The commercial prospects of the village were, however, overclouded by the disastrous crisis of 1857, and among the many who were swept down in that commercial storm was the respected firm of Walter Milligan & Son. In the exercise of a wise discretion the creditors accepted a composition amounting to about two-thirds of their debts, and in less than two years afterwards they had the satisfaction of receiving from the firm the remainder. This honourable conduct so excited the admiration of those who had been spontaneously benefited, that Messrs. Milligan were presented with a magnificent service of plate, accompanied by a testimonial expressive of the high esteem of the donors. The mill was in 1858 taken by Mr. Samuel Watmuff on a seven years' lease, and by him the mohair branch of the business was extended. At the expiration of the lease that gentleman purchased the property, since which time he has so enlarged the works that the original mill now forms but a small portion of the premises.

At Hill End, near here, resided Samuel Sunderland, son of a London merchant. He was born in 1600, and carried on the business of a woollen draper in London, in which he was eminently successful. After he relinquished his commercial pursuits, he resided at Harden, and died in 1676. His benefactions to various objects in the neighbourhood amounted to £107 per annum. While residing at Hill End, his house was broken into by thieves, who bound all the persons in the house, and broke open his chest, abstracting therefrom the large sum of £2500 in gold and silver. The individuals who committed this robbery resided at Collingham, near Wetherby, and it has been said were in

circumstances above want. In order to prevent the chance of successful pursuit, there being a deep snow on the ground, they persuaded a blacksmith to put shoes on their horses' feet backwards way. Arrived at Hill End the thieves took away as much gold in bags as they thought they could carry off, and succeeded in effecting their retreat. They were, however, traced, and found to have reached the public-house at Collingham. While they were dividing the booty, the landlord, hearing a dispute and the sound of coin, went softly into the room above, and peeping through chinks in the floor, saw the money and heard sufficient to satisfy him that a robbery had been committed, upon which he joined the robbers, and declared that unless they would let him share the plunder he would inform against them. Thereupon he became a partner in their crime, and received his portion, but it was a bad bargain for the landlord, for, although innocent of any capital participation in the robbery, he was tried at York and condemned to die with the rest. When the judge was passing sentence of death one of the culprits laughed, and, upon being rebuked, he said, "I was only thinking, my lord, that the landlord has come in for his 'share'!" This circumstance gave rise to the saying, "Like the landlord of Collingham, you'll come in for your 'share.'" Notwithstanding this robbery, Mr. Sunderland continued until his death to keep large quantities of money in the house. When upon his death-bed he caused the chest containing his money to be opened and took a solemn farewell of it! The chest in which Sunderland kept his money is said to have been carved oak, elaborately inlaid, and was long in the possession of the Rishworth family, by whom it was formerly shown as a curiosity.

Hill End farm, the scene of the above incident, now forms part of the Ferrand estate, but from the initials S. S., and the date 1650 over the "mistal" door, it would appear to have been at that time the property of Mr. Sunderland. In 1780 old Joseph Foster and his son Joseph held the farm, and the latter lived in one portion of the homestead until 1830. Old Mary Waterhouse, who lived to her 103rd year, resided with her son Willy in the other portion. She is described as a "plump, round, healthy-looking little body," and an amusing instance is told of her being mistaken for the wife of her son, surprise even being expressed that he should have married a woman so much younger than himself. Willy was a bachelor, and was shoemaker-in-ordinary to the great folks of the neighbourhood. He lived to a great age, having survived his 95th year. Hill End House is now jointly tenanted by Mr. Seth Wright and Mr. Benjamin Moulding.

Not far from Hill End is Shackleton House, dated 1669, for generations inhabited by the Fosters, one of whom, Abraham Foster, was huntsman for old Mr. Ferrand. Brass Castle, a small castellated edifice, is also within a short distance. The place was rebuilt in 1799, by Benjamin Ferrand. "Brass" should doubtless be read "Braes" Castle, as it is not unlikely to have been one of the watch-towers in the days of the Romans, which they erected on the braes or hills. There is a Brass Castle near Upwood, and another at Ilkley, and they are generally supposed to have been towers erected along the great Roman roads, from which signals could be transmitted. The Tathams and Watmuffs are associated with Brass Castle in recent times. Joseph Tatham farmed the adjoining land, and was also the "village blacksmith." Stephen Watmuff, grandfather of Mr. Samuel Watmuff, succeeded him. Other old homesteads are Fieldhead, the residence of Mrs. Wilkinson, and Higher and Lower Sandbeds. The Sawley family lived at Lower Sandbeds, the last of them being Thomas Sawley; Robert Robinson recently lived at Higher Sandbeds. Springfield House, the residence of Mr. S. Watmuff, is a substantial modern edifice standing in its own grounds, which are beautifully laid out. An addition to the latter has recently been made, by enclosing an unprofitable and neglected corner down to the junction of the roads. The improved effect of the recent plantings will at no distant period be apparent.

The chief interest, however, attaching to the older buildings of the Harden Valley centres in Harden Hall, built in 1616, and which is commonly reputed to have been the residence of General Fairfax during the occupation of the Moor by the Parliamentary troops. The hall has all the appearance of having been one of the largest mansions built in this neighbourhood about the time of its erection—a period, it may be observed, most prolific of fine old mansions. It was one of the earliest residences built in this parish by the Ferrand family, and is still in their possession. The hall is at present occupied by Mr. W. F. Atkinson, solicitor, of Bradford. On one of the out-offices there are the same initials as those found at St. Ives, viz.—B^FM, the date being 1650, and were no doubt intended for Benjamin Ferrand and Martha his wife, already mentioned. In connection with Harden Hall there are relics more difficult to decipher than anything connected with the hall itself. These are the large deposits of slag and scoriæ which are found in the gardens and fields adjoining the hall, about which nothing appears to be known in the neighbourhood. The oldest inhabitant has never had handed down to him any record that iron-

works existed at Harden, but still the remains of iron-smelting are apparent and indisputable; the hall itself stands upon the buried scoræ. Probably they are Roman remains. In connection with these deposits some persons associate the names Higher and Lower Sandbeds, the supposition being that from these two places sand for casting was obtained.

Closely adjoining to Harden Hall is Harden Beck, where the townships of Bingley and Wilsden join. In the packhorse days, when it lay upon a main road, this little hamlet boasted two public-houses. One of these ancient hostelries still remains, and is now called the Malt Shovel, which name was given to it by Abraham Foster, who for forty years dispensed "home-brewed" in a homely way. The manor courts for Allerton-cum-Wilsden being held here, it is also called the Manor House. One of the best-known residents of Harden Beck at present is Thomas Atkinson, whose family have for generations owned many of the buildings, such as they are, which cluster beside the beck. One of these buildings—the Old Maltkiln—is a curiosity in architecture, and has in its time played many parts, having in the last of the hand-combing days harboured a colony of combers from all parts, who, by way of contrast we suppose, got the appellation of "angels." A sad lot were these Harden cherubims, by all accounts. Their colony at the old Maltkiln was a sort of "city of refuge" for all the hand-combers who were "steamed" out of other and distant places, and the consequence was that the "foreigners" were regarded as very undesirable neighbours, not only by the villagers, but by Bingley magistrates. The Harden valley, it would appear, was a very early seat of hand-combing. Above a century ago this trade was carried on in the dale, and forty years ago above 200 combers plied their nimble fingers to some profit. As it was one of the earliest, so it is also one of the last places where wool is manipulated in the old-fashioned way, for in poking about its by-corners we came upon a live comber (a Devonshire man), probably the last of his race, "jigging" away for life and death.

The worsted mill at Harden Beck was, unfortunately for the neighbourhood, burnt down two or three years ago. This mill was first built by Messrs. Barraclough, Smith & Tetley, the corn mill adjoining (of much older date) being owned by Mr. Barraclough, senior. After the above firm retired from the worsted business, the mill was rented by the late John Anderton, of Hallas. Both mills were afterwards bought by the late Mr. Christopher Anderson, father of the Andersons of Wilsden, and were some time after purchased by the late Mr. Matthew Wilkinson. The premises have recently been rebuilt.

The Old School House at Mytholme, which was endowed in 1680, was used as the first Sunday school in Harden by all parties and sects. It was afterwards occupied by several adventurous pedagogues, but with little success, the only one who succeeded in establishing anything like a reputation being Mr. Lewthwaite. An infants' school was also built by the late Walker Ferrand, Esq., who, in addition, paid the schoolmaster's salary of £1 per week. This was continued by his successors for some time, but was withdrawn more than thirty years ago. An impression strongly prevails in the village that this withdrawal had some connection with a celebrated contention between the lord of the manor and the villagers as to a right of road. However that may be, the little school was given up, and until Mr. Walter Milligan took the matter in hand, the village was woefully deficient in educational appliances. That gentleman opened a school first in the Independent School-room, and next in his new warehouse, to which he transferred the few scholars at Mytholm, and thus with "half-timers" and others a good public school was got together. The school was afterwards again removed to the Independent Chapel. Within a few months a new school will be built in the village by the Bingley School Board.

What is now the Harden Mechanics' Institute had its rise in the year 1859, through the endeavours of a few thoughtful and energetic men who felt the necessity of means being adopted to raise the educational standard of those who had passed out of the elementary teacher's hands; and though that effort has been fairly successful, its promoters have to deplore the usual indisposition of young men and women to improve themselves. After various vicissitudes, the institute has improved its position from eleven members to now about one hundred. The appliances consist of reading and recreation rooms, a night school, a library of 640 volumes, &c.

Methodism seems to have taken early root at Harden, doubtless owing to its contiguity to Haworth, where the Rev. William Grimshaw lived and laboured. As early as 1747 (according to Mr. Ward's "Historical Sketches"), Thomas Lee accepted an invitation to preach there, and the members met at Bingley, but in 1763 we find them existing as a class, with Abraham Binns, of Harden Brow, as their leader. The other members were John and Mary Whitaker, stuff weavers; David Binns, weaver; Joseph Brown, cordwainer; John Jackson, weaver; Christopher Townend, weaver; and Abraham Mitchell, woolcomber. About 1770, Harden became a distinct society, and seven years after numbered twenty-four members. Of the members returned in 1777, John Jackson was a noted Methodist, and

lived near The Grange (now St. Ives), in a pleasant situation close by the gardens of Mr. Ferrand. His house was a great resort for many. He had two brothers, Samson and Joseph, both good men. Mary Waterhouse, the centenarian, and her son William, were also members of the society. Divine service was conducted for many years in private houses, principally at Samuel Brashaw's, next to the bridge and opposite to the blacksmith's shop; also at the houses of Joseph Barraclough, miller, near Harden Beck, and William Leach, in Harden Lane. In 1813, steps were taken to build a chapel, and amongst those who took an active part in the effort were the members of the family of Mrs. Hannah Sharp. Her sons, John, James and William, were amongst the first trustees, and in the graveyard adjoining the chapel several of the family are buried. Lot Brashaw and Jonas Howgate were, at that time, active leaders, and Henry Bailey (the charcoal burner) and Richard Nixen, were well-known local preachers. In 1835, an enlargement of the chapel took place. During the Reform agitation of 1851, however, the village was terribly shaken by the storm, and possession of the chapel was the point aimed at by both parties. The case was tried before the Court of Chancery, and terminated in favour of the Conference party. From this period, therefore, dates the erection of the Wesleyan Reform Chapel, a neat and commodious edifice a little higher up the lane.

The Independent congregation is an offset from Bingley, and was formed in 1838, when a chapel was built. The church, however, was not constituted until three years afterwards, and until 1862 there was no resident minister. In that year an invitation was given to Mr. M. A. Wilkinson, who remained until May, 1865, and was succeeded in 1871 by the Rev. J. P. Ritchie, the late minister. In 1865 a new chapel was erected upon the site of the previous one. This chapel is a neat Grecian structure, and is decidedly the handsomest edifice in the village. The opening services took place in October of that year, and partook of that prolonged character which is not uncommon in country districts. A custom also prevails at Harden, as in many of the neighbouring villages, strongly partaking of that "brotherly love" which is inculcated in the Old Book, namely, that on the occasion of a chapel anniversary, especially if any extraordinary effort is about to be made, the neighbouring congregations, of whatever denomination, close their places of worship, thus offering no obstacle to those who are desirous of giving a helping hand. All the above places of worship are situated in Harden Lane, and on the Keighley road the Old School, built by Walker Ferrand, Esq., has within the last few years been adapted for the services of the Church of England, under the vicarage of Bingley.

The old stock of Hardenites chiefly consists of the descendants of a comparatively few families. There is an old joke that the natives do not consider a man a genuine Hardenite unless he has lived three generations in the village. Hence the clannish feeling is very strong. The name of Bailey was formerly very common. It is said that nearly all the native families of Harden have sprung from old Bailey, who lived at Cliff and had ten sons, each of whom married and settled in the neighbourhood. Their descendants may be found in the families of Bailey, Foster, Leach, Smith, Wilkinson, Jackson, Whitaker, Knowles, Crowther, Middlebrook, &c. In an assessment of the hamlet, taken in 1799, we find other names not now so prominent, as the Sawleys, Tathams, Tetleys, Waddingtons, Andersons, Butterfields, and Laycocks. This assessment was for a highway rate, which at 4d. in the pound realised £19 9s. 3d. The existence of so many "club-houses" is an undoubted evidence of thriftiness among the present generation, and the almost total absence of crime is equally matter for congratulation. But it was not always so. In the palmy days of woolcombing a fearful amount of improvidence, gambling, and Sabbath desecration prevailed. Leaving out of account the better-conducted villagers who met daily on "Whitaker Hill,"—the forum of the village—to discuss the national affairs, there was still a large proportion whose delight was found in the cockpit or round the badger tub, and whose Sundays were spent on the moor "tossing." It is on record that at one time only two persons could read in the village, and that only one newspaper found its way there. About the same time the domestic contrivances were of the scarcest, as there was only one oven in which to bake! Now, however, outdoor recreation is frequently found in gardening, for which the villagers are noted, and they are equally noted for their home-fed bacon. To encourage the taste for horticulture Mr. Ferrand has opened up sixteen acres of garden ground, which is entrusted to a committee of working men, who let it off in allotments; and the Knowles family has also broken up allotment grounds. The principal stirring event of the year is the "feast-time," which is vigorously maintained.

The extensive township of Wilsden lies chiefly on the high ground to the left, although it also takes in the woods and watercourse in the valley from Harden Beck and Hallas upwards to Hewenden. The inhabited portion of the township lies in the hollow between Norr Hill and Birchin Lands, but being almost destitute of wood, it presents little natural attraction. Towards the bottom of the dale, however, where it opens into the vale of Harden, its appearance is diversified and

pleasing, and from the higher grounds of Norr Hill, Birchin Lands End and Old Allen, many fine prospects are obtained. The villagers of Wilsden rejoice in a clear, bracing atmosphere, such as dwellers in the lowlands know little of, and which asserts its health-giving qualities in the ruddy cheeks of the youngsters of both sexes, and also in the sinewy proportions of the elder natives. It must have been the lasses of some of our northern dales who inspired the following quaint lines, written long ago :—

“ A Yorkshire lass who can outvie?
No city girl can them come nigh ;
They've rosy blushes in their cheeks,
While city girls are green as leeks ;
This with my fancy will agree,
A Yorkshire lass shall be for me ! ”

Wilsden boasts of an ancient descent. At the taking of the Domesday Survey in 1080, it formed an independent manor, but afterwards became part of the possessions of the influential family of the Thorntons, along with the manor of Allerton, and it has since followed the fortunes of that manor. Hence the term “ Allerton-cum-Wilsden.” Both are in the parish of Bradford. It is not improbable that in Saxon times the only habitable portion of the township would be in the *dene* (or bottom) at Mytholme, adjoining Harden Beck ; the land upon which the village now stands, and stretching even beyond up to Harrop Edge and Old Allen, being then in the rugged condition in which some of it even now remains. In the thirteenth century Thomas de Thornton gave land in Wilsden to the monks of Byland Abbey, near Easingwold, who were thus entitled to the homage and service of Godfrey de Willesden and his heirs, and of Thomas de Threapland and his heirs. In 1316 the Abbot of Byland is returned as lord of the manor. In 1513 we find the Thorntons and Threaplands still land-owners in the township, for in that year they paid the tax levied by Henry VIII. in his war against the French King. In the same assessment the still familiar name of Illingworth appears for Allerton. In 1670 Henry Marsden, of Gisburn, held the manors of Allerton and Wilsden, and in 1794 Benjamin Ferrand, of St. Ives, purchased them from Henry Marsden's descendants, with the mineral rights, royalties, &c., for £2400. They now vest in William Ferrand, Esq.

A rapid glance round the outskirts of the township may first be desirable before touching upon the village itself, and we may as well take up the route where we left it at Harden Beck. Proceeding up the valley Goit Stock Waterfall is soon reached ; but first we pass an old building, once a cotton mill, and now occupied by Mr. Henry Beldon

for the rearing of prize poultry. To see the birds in their native freedom, and to witness the many contrivances for their welfare in and about the old mill, is an interesting sight, and one far more agreeable than when they are cooped up in show-cases at exhibitions. The old cotton mill at Goit Stock, with the pleasant residence close by, was once occupied by the Horsfall family, who were very early associated with the worsted trade of Bradford, and who played a not unimportant part in its development. The Horsfall family seem to have been of some importance early in the fifteenth century, and, as is shown by ancient deeds, had possessions in the neighbourhood of Denholme at that period. In 1603 Richard Horsfall purchased the manor of Thurstonland, and with it Storthes Hall, the principal mansion in the parish of Kirkburton, near Huddersfield, which had been the seat of the Storthes, a family of some antiquity. A son of this Horsfall, Captain Richard Horsfall, took an active part in the Civil War, when he joined the Royal Army, and held a command in Sir George Savile's regiment of foot. After the battle of Marston, his father having died, Captain Horsfall settled at Storthes, and died there in 1688. The Horsfalls have been successively lords of the manor of Thurstonland until it vested in the present representative, Charles Horsfall Bill, Esq. In 1613 Dugdale, in his Visitation, declared the arms of this family to be—A bezzant between three horses' heads; the crest a horse's head, couped ermine, the motto being, "Labore et honore." Reverting to the Denholme branch we find that in 1612 Richard Horsfall, the then possessor of Storthes, purchased a tract of 120 acres of Denholme Park, called Whiteshaw, adjoining Hollin Park, and afterwards other portions came to the Horsfalls. At a later period they worked the coal seams under their land at Denholme and Oxenhope, and for a long period continued that business. Timothy Horsfall, the occupier of Goit Stock cotton mill, was of this branch. He first lived at Cowhouse, a little higher up the dale, where he also carried on the business of a tanner, but afterwards Goit Stock Mill was built for him by Benjamin Ferrand, Esq., about the close of last century. He had a numerous family, comprising several sons, namely, John Garnett, William, Timothy, Jeremiah, Thomas, and Michael, and several daughters, most of whom were born at Cowhouse and Goit Stock. The cotton business was even then leaving this locality, and drifting into Lancashire, and the sons turned their attention to wool, chiefly, we believe, through the instrumentality of Mr. William Horsfall, who had learnt the business with Mr. George Anderton, one of the earliest woolstaplers in the Bradford trade. Four of the brothers, John Garnett, William, Timothy, and Thomas, and afterwards Michael,

came to Bradford, and commenced woolstapling and manufacturing ; John Garnett being the principal in the manufacturing concern, under the name of J. G. Horsfall & Co., while William conducted the wool business, his firm being named William Horsfall & Brothers. In both departments the brothers Horsfall gave their best energies towards developing the young Bradford trade, and for many years they reaped the just reward of success. J. G. Horsfall & Co. were the first to introduce steam power-looms into Bradford. This was at Horsfall's Mill, North Wing, and the opposition the firm had to encounter in consequence, culminating in the great riot of 1826, is matter of history. In the wool department Mr. William Horsfall was not less energetic and successful. At that day the Australian wool sales were unknown, Wakefield was the principal mart for English-grown wool, and thither Bradford spinners and manufacturers resorted to purchase their raw material. A large quantity (for that period) of German wool, however, found its way to England, and no small portion of this passed through the hands of William Horsfall and Brothers, who supplied many traders in the Leeds, Huddersfield, and West of England markets. To secure this wool, Mr. William Horsfall for years took journeys to Breslau and other German wool fairs, and during some period the wool was escorted to shipping ports by armed troops. The warehouses of the firm at Bradford were conveniently situated at the head of the canal basin in Broadstones. All the brothers, with the exception of Mr. Timothy Horsfall, of Hawksworth, have now passed away.

Crossing a footbridge near the old mill, a pleasant road through the woods leads by the side of the babbling beck to Goit Stock Waterfall. Buried in the umbrageous recesses of Hallas Wood, this is truly a sequestered spot, and is much resorted to by lovers of nature. In fact, the tourist may travel far, and not find a more enchanting scene. John Nicholson often repaired here to derive inspiration and court retirement, and on some such occasion he wrote :—

“ Neath your cool shades I love to stray,
Far from the gay and noisy throng,
To sit and pass the hours away,
And listen to the blackbird's song.”

There are many pleasant winding walks in the wood, one of which leads forward to Cullingworth. From an elevated seat on the northern slope of the ravine, the waterfall is seen to great advantage. Goit Stock and its surroundings well repay a visit, and Mr. Ferrand's permission to view is cheerfully given, on application being made.

A little higher up the valley is Hallas Bridge Mill, almost hid from view by the thick woods around. Hallas Bridge was, fifty years ago, a prosperous hamlet, and although it is one of the strangest and most romantic spots that could be found for factories, yet there are two mills, one called Hallas, built by Abraham and Jonas Foster, and another one close by named Bents, erected in 1810 by William Wilkinson, of Pyebank, and enlarged by John Knowles, his son-in-law, who worked both in the cotton business. John Knowles made calicoes for the Manchester market, and his waggons went to and fro over Blackstone Edge, a three days' journey, constantly. He was, perhaps, the largest maker of cotton goods in this part of the country, "putting out" hand-weaving at twenty different stations extending from Skipton to Cleckheaton. Hallas Mills were afterwards carried on for a short time by his son, John Wilkinson Knowles, in the cotton trade. Bents Mill was afterwards bought and worked by a well-known person, viz., John Anderton, or better known as Johnny, who saved a very considerable fortune, and was brother to the Andertons of Bingley. After his death the mill was sold to Mr. John Hartley. Richard Knowles afterwards ran the Hallas mill, formerly worked by his father, in the worsted trade. It then became the property of the Messrs. Harris, bankers, of Bradford, who rented it to Mr. John Leach, of Bingley. It is now owned and worked by Mr. R. Brear.

Following the course of the ravine the Rambler will shortly come to Hewenden, and here there is another water-mill, which was doing a flourishing worsted trade in 1792, before the adventurous Buckley, at the risk of his life, essayed to build a mill in Bradford. The Nichols family were the early occupiers of this primitive worsted mill. William Nichols, with others, built it. His son Richard succeeded him, and afterwards became sole owner. He also worked the old corn mill, which is of much older date, and is probably the old soke mill for the township. The corn mill was, however, afterwards let to John and Joseph Wright, and Richard Nichols & Co. ran the worsted mill until the year 1838. The late Jonathan Jennings successfully carried on the worsted business here for some years. The premises, which have been enlarged by the addition of a modern "shed" for weaving, are the property of the late Mr. A. England's executors, and are now occupied by the firm of Messrs. T. Biltcliffe & John Stuttard, as manufacturers.

The most interesting place to the casual visitor in this locality, however, is the famous Manywells Spring, which issues from the side of a steep hill in Trooper or Manywells farm, a short distance from Hewenden Mill. This spring is one of the most extraordinary in the

kingdom, its volume, unceasingly poured forth, having been computed at above half a million gallons a day. The quality of the water is well known—it is as cold as ice and as clear as crystal. This priceless spring has been found to issue from a fissure in the rock a short distance from the surface, whence it literally belches forth into a massive basin, and flows direct to Bradford, seven miles away, the water being conducted in pipes or conduits to the store reservoirs at Chellow, and from thence to the service reservoirs on Whetley Hill. The Manywells Spring is almost the only source of supply to these reservoirs, which, combined, have a water capacity of 78,000,000 gallons. What an inexhaustible store this must have seemed to the Bradfordians of 1850, in comparison with the 15,000 gallons stored in the little reservoir behind Judy Barrett's, in Westgate, previous to the establishment of the Bradford Water Company in 1842! It is, however, but a bucketful compared to the provision of to-day, which may be set down roughly at one thousand million gallons of water stored in supply reservoirs; while compensation reservoirs have been constructed holding another thousand million gallons! The splendid stream of Manywells, although cheap at ten times its price, was not, however, secured until the natural opposition of the millowners on the Harden Beck had been appeased by the construction of the Hewenden Reservoir, which holds 70,000,000 gallons, and has a water area of fourteen acres. The Manywells Spring is locally known as "Seth Spring," the farm on which it is situated (about sixteen acres) having belonged to Seth Wright, from whom it was purchased by the old Waterworks Company for something short of £2000.

Having made the circuit of Hewenden Reservoir, we retrace our steps to Wilsden by Storrs Lane, at the foot of which it is proposed to place the railway station for Wilsden, on the Halifax and Keighley Railway (when it is made). Close by is Birchin Lee Farm, which was left in 1724 by Jeremy Dixon, of Heaton Royds, towards supporting the minister of the Unitarian Chapel, Bradford. When devised it was let at the yearly rent of £10. It is valued now for rateable purposes at £60. The farm contains about eighty-one acres. At the junction of Storrs Lane with the Bradford and Haworth Road is the little hamlet of Harecrofts, with its Primitive Methodist Chapel; and opposite is the road to Pudding Hill, another extremity of the township. The name, however, is not inviting enough to tempt us to pursue any inquiries that way. We prefer a gentle climb up to Birchin Lands, near Harecrofts, which gives us a good view of Cullingworth, while far beyond, where "the sloping land recedes into the clouds," we get a peep into Lancashire through Sugden Nick—a narrow opening

between the opposite hills. Approaching the village, the most prominent object for miles around is the massive structure called St. Matthew's Church, and at the fall of the road is Lingbob, so named from its former proximity to the heather. Near this place is the Post Row, so called from the post office being kept here, when Bradford was the post town for Wilsden, Cullingworth, and Haworth. A walking postman left Bradford with three bags, one each for Wilsden, Cullingworth, and Haworth, and returned at night, a daily walk of twenty miles. This would be a task in this age of steam that few men would be found able or willing to undertake. William Lord was the postman who accomplished it for many years. He was a Wilsden man, and kept the White Horse beerhouse during the latter part of his time, but died almost in want of the common necessities of existence. Lingbob is rendered notorious by giving a name to a celebrated fortune-teller, called the Lingbob Witch. The woman who bore this name was Hannah Green, and died at Yeadon in 1810, having saved upwards of £1000!

Entering the main street we are reminded, in passing the new house built by him, of the late Dr. Mackley, who for many years was the principal surgeon of the villages round about. He was well known and much respected, and his labours extended to a very considerable distance around. Dr. Mackley was succeeded by his son, Mr. Herbert Mackley, but he did not survive his father many years. Previous to Dr. Mackley, Mr. Hiram Bentley, who died in 1843, practised in the village. The Bentleys are an old Wilsden family, and the above was the second son of Mr. John Bentley, who resided at Birkshead, and carried on the business of a worsted spinner at the mill there. Mr. Bentley, however, only lived to practice in his native village three years. Nearly opposite the Mechanics' Institute is Dame Green, so named from an old lady called Hannah Jowett, who taught knitting, sewing, and reading to the youngsters half a century ago in a very old house then standing, probably one of the most ancient in the district. The dame was a pious woman, and a very determined advocate for attention to and acquaintance with their Sunday duties by her pupils. Such was the respect entertained for the old lady that even the poorest when they baked (and everybody had a "bakestone" in those days), would send her a "haver-cake." While left alone for a short time, the old dame fell near the fire, and was burned to death at the advanced age of ninety-three. This spot formerly belonged to the Cunliffe Lister Kaye family, and was purchased some years ago by Mr. William Wigglesworth, who pulled down the old house and laith adjoining, and built himself a residence on the site. Lower down the main street

there is the blacksmith's forge, where for half a century Joseph and his sire, Thomas Ackroyd,

" Have shoed the mare, the colt, the ass,
None in the trade could them surpass ! "

The cluster of houses to the left, standing on a little knoll away from the main street, is Wilsden Hill, one of the oldest portions of the village. There are here several old houses, and a farmstead or two, which, long before the age of steam, resounded with the "thud, thud" and "clack, clack" of the hand-loom.

Joseph, son of John Smith, of Wilsden Hill, was accounted a very rich man. His property went to young Tom Horsfall, of Denholme, a sister of whom married Mr. John Garnett Horsfall, and it is now vested in the Rev. Mr. Garrett, of Bedale, who married the only daughter of Mr. Horsfall. Mr. Richard Fawcett, of Bradford, also married into this family. He built Birkshead Mill and various farm-houses, viz., Craps Hall, Goose Hall, and Whimsical—names derived from the peculiarities of the occupiers. William Smith, a relative of the above, left five sons, namely, Jerry, William, Richard, John, and Isaac. Much land in the township belonged to them, but by their misunderstandings with each other the property was spent in litigation. John Lockwood, the owner of the Lingbob Inn, otherwise the Brown Cow, was also a man of considerable estate. Benjamin and William Lockwood, of Bradford, half-brothers of John, got the property. The old hotel stood where the cottage houses called Post Row now are. Benjamin Stephenson about forty years ago built the present hotel, and was succeeded by his son John, who died two years ago, and since by his younger son William. The house has long been noted for the hospitality of its owners. Benjamin Stephenson, in partnership with his brother-in-law, Edward Berwick, ran spinning frames at Birkshead Mill, prior to building Lingbob Mill. On Benjamin's death the estate left to the sons was much reduced, and subsequently became the property of F. S. Powell, Esq. Benjamin's son John was for many years the highway surveyor of the township, and on the formation of the Local Board in 1865 he was elected a member and appointed treasurer, which office he held until 1869. The principal holders of land and property in the village are now the Rev. Mr. Garrett, the late Mr. James Garnett's executors (Bradford), Mr. J. A. Jowett, Mr. Ferrand, Mr. F. S. Powell, Mr. S. P. Myers, Mr. Jennings, and Mr. Whitley, the two latter owning land at Old Allen. Mr. Edward Townend is also a considerable land-owner, his estate at Hallas being in Wilsden township.

Wilsden township has been noted for manufacturing from a very early period. Long before the power-loom was known, spinning,

hand-loom weaving, and combing by hand were the principal occupations of the operatives and small farmers. The business, however, was small and in its infancy. John Anderson and two or three others employed three or four men who combed English wool, which, after being spun by hand at the homes of the cottagers, was woven into pieces. The only mill in Wilsden previous to 1810 was the Old Mill, worked in the cotton trade by Mr. George Tweedy, in which year he was joined in partnership by John Anderson and his son Christopher, and his own son, George Tweedy, jun., the firm being styled Tweedy, Anderson & Sons. Into this mill the firm introduced machinery for spinning, thereby much increasing their trade. About 1812 they had an application for moreens, but failed in producing the right sort of cloth. Under these circumstances George Tweedy and Jas. Toothill, habited as weavers, visited the neighbourhood of Brighouse, where they found the right make, returned home, and produced the yarn and the pieces which suited the market. About that period, Wilsden, the Hill, Lingbob, and Norr only contained about 120 houses ; but this moreen trade was well paid for, 8s. being paid for weaving a piece which has since fallen to 1s. 9d. New buildings were required, and the village soon began to feel the effects of prosperity. Many of the operatives saved their earnings and became freeholders, and from having been a very poor village Wilsden became one of the most prosperous in the West Riding. In 1817, George Tweedy, jun., died. He was a very promising young man. About the same time old John Anderson died. He was in his time a thorough worker, and when the combers applied for an advance, he would say to them, "I will try a dozen myself, and see if I think it worth more." He was known in Bradford market as the "nice maker," his goods procuring him that appellation. The firm was then continued as Tweedy & Anderson, and its maximum amount of business was reached about 1818, when from 400 to 500 workpeople were employed. On the retirement from the firm, in 1826, of George Tweedy, Christopher Anderson was joined by his brothers, George and Thomas, under the name of Chris. Anderson and Bros. George Tweedy died in 1828, as he was entering the village on horseback from Flappit. He was a useful citizen, and took great pains in imparting the rudiments of education to the working men of the village. The firm of Christopher Anderson & Bros. were very enterprising, and kept a powerful team of horses for their waggons, which brought great loads of wool from Wakefield weekly. In their time the houses were fully occupied, and very scarce. Such was the respect in which they were held that they were never named but as Maister Christopher or Maister Joshua, &c. ; and in speaking

of days gone by, their workpeople will relate deeds of kindness and forethought not often met with in this day. Mr. George Anderson, in addition to the interest he took in promoting the prosperity of the village, was also a good musician, and was for a long time an active member of the congregation at the Wilsden Independent Chapel. He died in Bradford in 1872, in his seventy-third year. All the brothers Anderson are now dead, but their memory is treasured by those who knew them.

In 1828 the damask trade was introduced, with machinery invented by the Andersons and their men, and for a time competed closely with the Halifax district, but finally it succumbed to the Jacquard machine. Up to 1833 narrow goods from 27in. to 36in. only were made; then six-quarter or 54in. goods were in demand, and gave immense employment and reward to the whole district. About 1840 James Emmott built Providence Mill and many cottages at the lower part of the village, which formed another era. He was the principal instrument in building the original Methodist Chapel, and in later years a Primitive Chapel. In 1843, George Hanson, now of Bradford, who in 1810 came as bookkeeper to the firm of Tweedy, Anderson & Sons, built Royds Mill, which he worked some time himself. For years he continued a successful employer in Wilsden, and greatly assisted the progress of the village. Royds Mill was afterwards let to Messrs. Kaye, Richardson & Co., from Manchester, who intended to introduce the delaine trade worked on the "two-loom" system, and for that purpose brought with them the best machinery, but the operatives of Wilsden were determined not to tolerate such new-fangled systems, and by riot and resistance they drove the enterprising firm out of the village. This unwise step injured the district much, and many operatives had to remove to other places in search of employment.

Well Holes Mill was, some time ago, bought by Mr. A. Ambler, and the firm of A. Ambler & Sons now carry on the spinning and wool combing business there. Birkshead Mill is now the property of the firm of S. P. Myers & Co., who have made great improvements both in the manufacturing premises and in the adjoining cottages, which, in fact, form a thriving little hamlet of the town. Spring Mill was built by Joshua and John Anderson, and run by the former until his death, when Mr. E. Clapham, the present occupier, entered to it. Albion, formerly Old Mill, is now occupied by Mr. S. Watmuff, of Harden. In all there are eleven worsted mills in Wilsden. It would appear from the following extract from the Bingley registers that coal was got at the Norr as early as 1594:—"Thomas Illingworth, of Cottingley, who dyed in a colepitt at Norre, with a dampe, August, 1594."

Coal mines are still worked by Messrs. Isaac Wood & Son, both at Norr Hill and Pudding Hill.

Ecclesiastically, Wilsden and Allerton are one parish, the parish church being St. Matthew's, at Wilsden. The church is built on the high ground above the village. It is a bleak spot; the winds and weather have full play upon it, and there is little shelter from any quarter. This handsome edifice is generally known as the companion church to that at Shipley, both having been erected at the same time and designed by the same architect, Mr. J. Oates. It is a large and most substantial structure in the Gothic style, but the erection of such a capacious edifice in a thinly populated district has often excited surprise. The stones were got from what is known as the Church Quarry in Wilsden, and are very large blocks indeed. Mr. Hiram Craven was the contractor for the works. The church has sitting accommodation for 1400 persons, but the large galleries have been for some time closed. The cost of the edifice, which was built by Government, was £7710. Although made a district church, it is still under the parish of Bradford for lay purposes, and the Vicar of Bradford is patron. The net value of the living at its institution was only £46. Mr. Hamilton, the second incumbent, repaired the church at a cost of £300; he also built the glebe house, and got the living augmented by grants to £150 per annum, at which sum it remained until the time of the present incumbent. It is now worth about £300.

The first incumbent of this church was the Rev. John Barber, he being presented to it by the Rev. Henry Heap, vicar of Bradford. Mr. Barber remained at Wilsden twelve years, when he obtained the living at Bierley Chapel. He was pre-eminently courteous, gentlemanly and obliging to every one with whom he came in contact, and especially to the poor. Although his own means were limited, he gave to others more necessitous than himself "as he was able." It was no unusual thing to see him, lantern in hand, trudging along the lonely highway, either to some preaching engagement, or on some errand of mercy. When he was presented to the incumbency of Bierley, he felt the separation from his Wilsden friends keenly, but perhaps not more than did his parishioners themselves, as he was generally esteemed by members of all denominations. On his sudden decease in April, 1868, he was buried in the family vault in Wilsden, the service on the occasion being read by his friend, the Ven. Archdeacon Musgrave. While Mr. Barber was incumbent, he educated students for the ministry, the late Rev. James Bardsley, of Manchester, being one, and the Rev. T. Marsden, of Chester, another. Moorhouse Moor School, in Allerton township, was supplied by Mr. Barber and his students.

It has long been disused for preaching or instruction, and is now let by the Wilsden churchwardens for £2 10s. per annum. In Mr. Barber's time he was called upon to perform a "wedding on trust," which happened in this wise. There was a person living in Haworth parish of the name of "Moses o' Luke's." Moses having persuaded a woman to take him "for better for worse," they appeared at Wilsden Church to be married, but when the knot was tied it appeared that the happy couple had no money wherewith to pay the fees! However, like an honest man, Moses promised to pay the rev. gentleman in *besoms*, and kept his word—this being perhaps the only instance at Wilsden of a marriage being paid for in kind.

Mr. Ainsty succeeded Mr. Barber, but he remained only a few months, and was followed by the Rev. G. A. Hamilton. On Mr. Hamilton retiring, his curate, the Rev. R. H. Dover, succeeded to the living, and remained until his death in 1863. The Rev. J. E. Burnet, son of the Vicar of Bradford, was next appointed; but on the demise of the Rev. Canon Fawcett, of Low Moor (both of the livings being in the gift of the Vicar of Bradford), he was transferred to Low Moor, much to the regret of the inhabitants, whose affections he had won by his cheerful disposition and kindly greetings to all classes. The present vicar, the Rev. Joseph Ellis, succeeded Mr. Burnet. There is a neat parsonage standing in its own grounds; and a little above the church, on the high road, there is a good Sunday school; all of which are free from incumbrance. The churchyard is the principal burial-place for the parish.

Previous to the erection of Wilsden Church, the township paid an annual sum to the chapel at Thornton, and also to Bradford Parish Church. In 1834, however, it was resolved to object to these charges, and a trial ensued, the expenses of which were voted at a vestry meeting to be paid by a rate of 1s. in the pound. For some years after this the inhabitants refused to elect churchwardens. Another item, referring to the erection of the stocks in the churchyard, was also rejected by a large majority. About 1841, when Dr. Scoresby was Vicar of Bradford, he sent a person to Wilsden to collect the Vicar's dues. He called upon George Barker, joiner, but George made a chalk mark across the doorstep, and standing inside with an axe in his hand vowed that if the collector came over it he would be a dead man. Not daring to undertake so perilous a venture the collector went away, but only to meet other disasters, for as he went down the village street he was told there was another person waiting for him with gun in hand. The poor collector only ventured so far as to catch sight of the enemy, when he turned and fled from such unpleasant

company. Wilsden, as part of the old ecclesiastical parish of Bradford, still continues to pay £24 annually to the Vicar of Bradford, and £3 to the lay rector, under the Act passed in 1836 commuting the tithe payment to a fixed sum.

The earliest mention of Methodism in connection with Wilsden is probably in Will Darney's doggerel lines :—

“ And at Lingbob sometimes at noon
The Gospel trump we sound.”

From this reference it would seem that Wilsden was included in the rounds of that stalwart Methodist itinerant before 1750, and it was afterwards included in what was called “ Grimshaw's round.” Tommy Lee also mentions “ Lingbobin ” in his autobiography. The Lingbob services, mentioned both by Darney and Lee, resulted in the formation of a society, and in 1760 the quarterage amounted to 10s. A little society, consisting of twenty-six persons, continued to exist from 1763 until 1787, when it became extinct. In 1807 an attempt was made to obtain a fresh footing, when Richard Nixen, of Harden, a zealous local preacher, obtained the house of Matthew Patchett to preach in. A class was formed here, consisting of two members only, namely, Matthew Patchett and Seth Wright. In addition to the smallness of their number, the two laboured under other disadvantages. One of them could sing, but was unable to read ; the other, however, could read, but possessed no vocal powers ; so one gave out the hymn and the other sang, and between them they managed to hold on their way, until others joined the class. Meetings were regularly held in Patchett's house for some time, when they were removed to the house at Dame Green occupied by Hannah Jowett, before named. This old dame was a member of the class, and continued so until her unfortunate death in 1826. Some time before this, however, the meetings were removed from her house to James Firth's, at Wilsden Hill, and they continued to be held there until the erection of the chapel in 1823. A Sunday school was soon after established, from which several persons have risen to honour and usefulness in the Christian ministry, among these being the Rev. T. Curtis, the Rev. James Clapham, and the Rev. Ingham Sutcliffe. The society continuing to prosper, in 1847 a new chapel was resolved upon, the foundation stone of which was laid by Mr. Matthew Patchett, the oldest Methodist in Wilsden. The building was opened in October of the same year. It is a neat structure, occupying an elevated position near the main street, and contains a good organ, built by Mr. John Laycock, of Glusburn. Very commodious day schools, with master's house, were opened on Shrove-Tuesday, 1857, by the Rev. W. M.

Punshon. Both the chapel and school have, by the indefatigable exertions of the congregation, been freed from debt. By means of their day and Sunday schools the Wesleyans of Wilsden are entitled to a prominent place as instructors of the youth of the village. The day schools are under the tuition of Mr. Alfred Ladd.

Before the erection of the Independent Chapel, in 1795, there was a large surrounding district, comprising Wilsden, Harden, Cullingworth, Denholme, Allerton, and Cottingley, without a place of worship, if we except the small Wesleyan Chapel at Denholme, built in 1793. Previous to this time services were conducted in farmhouses and barns. The site for the Independent Chapel was bought from Mr. William Smith, for a merely nominal sum ; the builders were Jonas and Thomas Bower, and in due time a neat and comfortable chapel was reared. For two or three years before this, however, the Rev. Joseph Harrison, a native of Craven, had settled at Wilsden as minister, combining with his duties the work of tuition, which he conducted in the old school at Mytholme. A parsonage was soon afterwards built for Mr. Harrison, and the ground for a minister's garden and a graveyard was given by Benjamin Ferrand, Esq., lord of the manor. Mr. Harrison is described as "a plain-spoken, honest man, whose sermons were not likely to miss his hearers' hearts by flying over their heads." He left Wilsden for Bury, and afterwards removed to Allerton, where a new chapel was built for him in 1814. The second minister at Wilsden was the Rev. Samuel Baines, who was a native of Ossett. Mr. Baines commenced his pastorate in June, 1806, and was minister for twenty-nine years. He married the daughter of Mr. Geo. Tweedy, at that time the principal employer of the village. Mr. Thomas Baines, of Cottingley, is his only son. When Mr. Baines entered upon his work much irreligion and spiritual apathy prevailed, and he earnestly set to work to carry the Gospel into the houses of the people. As might be expected from this, his congregation increased, and in a few years the chapel was regularly filled to overflowing. To this cheering result the Sunday school contributed not a little, and Mr. Baines was not left to work single-handed. In Mrs. Tweedy and Mr. George Hanson he found valuable co-workers. The school especially secured a great acquisition in Mr. Hanson, who possessed a large share of organising and ruling power, and made it his business to acquaint himself with the best methods of conducting Sunday schools. The chapel, although built less than twenty years before, having become quite inadequate for the congregation, ground for another was purchased of Mr. W. Briggs, a short distance from the old chapel. The stone for the building was given by Mr. John Knowles, of Pye Bank, and Mrs. Balme ; the

carting was done gratis by the farmers in the neighbourhood; and the working-men of the congregation dug the foundations. The actual cost of the new chapel was about £1000, and it was opened on July 21st, 1816. Among the principal promoters of the new building were Messrs. George Tweedy, Christopher Anderson, Thos. Jowett, and George Hanson. When the new chapel was opened, the old one was altered for a Sunday school. Mr. Baines resigned his charge, owing to bodily infirmities, in 1835. His disinterested zeal and earnest ministrations make him still remembered with affection. He died within a few months of his resignation, and his remains lie in front of the chapel. The Rev. Samuel Blair succeeded in the same year, and he was followed in January, 1839, by the Rev. James Adolphus Savage, previously of Ilkeston, Derbyshire. In June of the same year the Independents of Wilsden distinguished themselves by a special and successful effort to extinguish the debt of £350 upon Airedale College, by means of a "bazaar," which, although now so popular an institution, was then a novelty, and for three days caused no small commotion in this remote village. Mr. Savage was the *beau ideal* of a country minister. He was fond of the country, and made his garden a model of what a village garden should be—well tilled and well tended, it produced abundance of good old English flowers and plenty of excellent vegetables in their season. This garden was thus a symbol of his professional work and labours. He spent half of his waking hours in his study and his garden, and half in his pastoral avocations; and being a man of fair scholarship and kind and gentle manners he won golden opinions from all sorts of men. Of him it might truly be said—

"A man he was to all the country dear."

Old and young, rich and poor, gentle and simple, alike respected him, and gave him reverence,

"And in his duty prompt at every call,

He watched and wept, and prayed and felt for all."

He was a man of large and varied information, and delighted to gather round him at the "parsonage" men of like mind, with whom he could hold profitable discourse. After a successful ministry of eighteen years at Wilsden, Mr. Savage removed to Gomersal, where he died on the 1st Jan., 1872. The Rev. W. Inman, and next the Rev. J. Parnaby, succeeded. During the latter's pastorate further improvements were made involving a cost of £520, which was cleared off at the time. The Rev. J. Bullock, M.A., is the present minister. Since Mr. Parnaby left a handsome parsonage has been erected at a cost of £700, which has been met by the liberality of the congregation.

The chapel also contains an excellent organ, built by Messrs. Forster and Andrews, of Hull, at a cost of £200. The Sunday school is still in a flourishing condition.

In 1843 a day school was commenced in the "old place," under the joint management of a committee of Wesleyans and Independents. After a few years, however, the former built a school-house of their own, and the joint school passed into the hands of the Independents exclusively. This school has long done good service in elementary teaching, and is now full of scholars—a proof of its appreciation both by parents and scholars. Mr. Wilkinson Abbott, the present master, has held that office, except for an interval of a few years, since the establishment of the school in 1843.

The Primitive Methodist body have a small chapel at the bottom of the town, erected in 1843, and also one at Harecrofts, a small hamlet of Wilsden. They have lately repaired the one at Wilsden at considerable cost, and have made great exertions to clear off the debt. They are active workers in the good cause.

The Free Church of England commenced its labours in 1869 in the present building. It is a plain substantial stone edifice erected on the Dolly Hill Estate by part of the former congregation of St. Matthew's Church, who, disagreeing with the mode of worship introduced by the present vicar, left the church. The Free Church has a resident minister and a good congregation as well as a well-attended Sunday school. The Rev. Hy. Baldwin is the minister. The building debt of this church has been greatly reduced by the repeated efforts of its members.

The Christian Brethren have a meeting-house or chapel here, built by Mr. Thomas Lister, near Crack Lane. He is one of the preachers on their plan, and as he makes no charge for the building and the ministrations are free, there is not much cost to the congregation.

In the village street there is an infants' school, vested in trustees, of whom the vicar for the time being is one. During the Rev. R. H. Dover's charge this was a flourishing school, but when his health declined, he discontinued employing a teacher. The present vicar reopened it, but it was poorly patronised, and was not continued as a school. It is now unoccupied.

The early education of many of the oldest inhabitants was obtained at the old school of Mytholme, the property of the township. This was after the death of the old dame named above. About 1680, Henry Marsden, lord of the manor, granted a piece of land at Mytholme to two trustees of the name of Midgley and Kitchen, for

one thousand years, at fourpence per annum, upon trust, to build a school-room. The school was built by subscription. An unknown donor gave to the schoolmaster a yearly rent-charge of 3s. 4d. out of the Doe Park property belonging to the devisees of E. W. Buck, Esq., and a yearly rent-charge of 10s. was granted by the Ferrands out of the Harden Hall estate. The building has long been disused as a school and the payments discontinued.

In consequence of a deficiency of school accommodation the township was called upon to elect a School Board, and the election took place in December, 1874. The members are Mr. A. Ambler (chairman), Rev. J. Ellis, Rev. H. Baldwin, Mr. W. Wigglesworth, and Mr. T. Berry. The new board are building a school near Albion Mill.

Forty years ago Wilsden boasted of possessing one of the most flourishing Mechanics' Institutes to be found in any village in Yorkshire, both as regarded the number of members and the direct manner in which its usefulness was applied to the class for which it was specially designed. It was established in 1826, having had for its founders a few working men who met round a comb-pot at Lingbob, and for the first eight years its operations were conducted solely by working people. The members having increased to 130, it was decided to erect a building, costing £780, but from the limited means of the promoters, a debt of about half that amount for some time remained. This building was opened in 1837. There was then a capital library of books, and at intervals some of the most eminent lecturers of the country found their way to Wilsden under the auspices of the institute. The institute has passed through various periods of depression, at times so intense as almost to imperil its existence. In this respect, however, it has only shared the fate of many another institution having a like object. Twenty years ago it had a membership of 200. Then this number fell considerably, notwithstanding that the institution had a library equalled by few village institutes, numbering 3000 volumes. The present number of volumes is 3700, and there is besides a small museum. Mr. Chris. Petty has been librarian for many years. The institute has now ninety members, fifty of whom attend classes under Government inspection. There is a penny savings bank held in connection with the Yorkshire Penny Bank, in which there is an amount to the credit of depositors of about £2000. This is one of the largest banking accounts in connection with the Penny Bank, and it is a proof of the people's thrift. Mr. W. Abbott is the actuary.

The Co-operative Society is another village institution originated by working men, who are now reaping substantial benefits therefrom.

This was commenced by eleven members in a cottage-house at Royd End in 1862. In 1863 the society was registered, and after some years a substantial building was bought at the Cross, where the members have now a grocer's shop and a drapery or outfitting establishment.

The Wilsden Temperance Society is one of the oldest societies in the kingdom, having been formed in 1832; and we believe the first teetotal pledge ever taken in Yorkshire was signed at Hewenden. Mr. W. S. Nichols and Mr. Thomas Baines were the founders of the society, and among the early members were the Rev. John Barber, incumbent of Wilsden; the late Canon Bardsley, of Manchester; the Rev. James Clapham, Wesleyan minister; and the late Mr. James Hird, of Ilkley. The latter being a poetaster, many persons went to hear him. It was while at Wilsden that he published the first volume of his Sonnets. In the register of this society for February 13th, 1835, there is the autograph of John Nicholson, who lived at Hewenden. About this time he wrote the "Drunkard's Retribution," "The Poacher," and other poems. Probably the greatest Temperance Festival in the world was held at Wilsden on Easter Monday and Tuesday, the 20th and 21st April, 1835. The scene is yet remembered as being one of so novel and impressive a character that it is worthy of record. On the days above-named the temperance societies of Wilsden, Keighley, Bingley, Thornton, Allerton, Baildon, Hallas Bridge, Cullingworth, Shipley, Manningham, Frizinghall, Cottingley, Harden, Denholme, Clayton, and Morton assembled at Wilsden to hold a combined festival, and to advocate the cause of temperance. The scene is described as imposing beyond description. Soon after one o'clock the proceedings commenced in the spacious church, which was densely crowded, while hundreds were gathered outside. The Rev. John Barber, incumbent, took the chair, and after prayer he addressed the assembly. Mr. W. S. Nichols, the secretary, read a statement showing that upwards of 4000 persons had joined the society. Other speakers were Messrs. Thompson, Pollard, Parsons, and Baines. In a field adjoining the church an immense tent, which was profusely decorated with evergreens, trees, and flowers, had been erected in which the various societies were refreshed. In the evening, proceedings were resumed in the church, the speakers being the Rev. John Barber, the Rev. James Bardsley, the Rev. G. S. Bull, and Messrs. Swindlehurst and Anderton, of Preston. Next day similar meetings were held, when Mr. Livesey, of Preston, and J. Silk Buckingham, Esq., were among the speakers.

The churchwardens of Bradford have two farms at Wilsden, the donor of which is unknown—one at Norr Hill, and the other in Crack

Lane—containing respectively 40a. 2r. 28p., and 7a. 1r. 23p. The net sum received from these farms, with a small sum received from the overseers of Horton, called “Hoppy money,” amounting altogether to £65 18s. 6d., is divided at Easter among the poor of all the townships of the parish except Clayton and Heaton. When devised, these lands were valued at a very small sum. In 1737 Joshua Midgley held the “poor’s land” at Norr Hill, and paid £7 per year. The Crack Close Farm is not mentioned in the accounts until 1812, when Abm. Bastow entered to it at a yearly rent of £25.

The poor of Wilsden, as well as those of Clayton, Thornton, Denholme and Allerton, are interested in Sagar’s Charity. About £8 15s. was allotted to Wilsden last year. This amount may now be soon increased consequent on the recent sale of two fields belonging to the trust. The Bingley Grammar School trustees have also two farms in Wilsden, one at Wilsden Hill containing 9a. 3r. 27p., rated at £24; and another at Harrops containing 10a. 3r. 33p., rated at £17 2s.

Wilsden contains several lodges or friendly societies, the oldest being No. 26 Lodge of the Order of the Peaceful Dove, established in 1839. The number of members for 1875 was 207, and the lodge was worth £2160 15s. 11d. in cottage property and investments—the worth per member being £10 8s. 7d. The Loyal Circumstance Lodge of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows had also 207 members, and a total worth of £1839 14s. 6d. The Pride of the Dale Lodge of the Grand United Order of Oddfellows had 81 members, and an accumulated stock of £622 7s. 5d., or an average of £7 13s. 8d. per member. The Rose of Wilsden Lodge of United Oddfellows, Bolton Unity, has been established twelve years, and has 70 members. There is also a Rechabite Lodge and a Lodge of Shepherdesses.

The Wilsden Local Board was established in 1865. Previous to that time the town’s affairs had been managed at vestry meetings, which appointed officials. The first meeting of the new Board was held on the 10th May. Mr. A. W. Ramsden was chosen chairman, Mr. Joseph Wright and Mr. W. H. Cuthbert, the then churchwardens, were the returning officers. The latter continued to act as clerk for some time gratuitously, when he was appointed with a salary. Mr. Joseph Ward, son of the late working surveyor, was appointed to his father’s post, and both clerk and surveyor continue the same offices at the present time. The Board consists of twelve members, who have the care of over twelve miles of highways. Mr. Jonas Sugden is the chairman, Mr. William Wigglesworth, treasurer; Mr. W. G. Watmuff, collector; Mr. Ward, inspector of nuisances; and Dr. Thos. Rutherford, of Bingley, medical officer of health. The roads, since the formation

of the Local Board, have greatly improved in condition. The village has some good springs of water, and there is seldom a scarcity. The village is also lighted with gas supplied by the Clayton and Allerton Gas Company. To ordinary customers the charge is 5s. per 1000 cubic feet.

Wilsden has the honour of being the birthplace of both preachers and teachers—many of the latter holding first-class certificates—who obtained their elementary groundwork from the book fixed by the side of the frame. Greatly instrumental in imparting good elementary education have been the Wesleyan and Congregational schools; and during the life of the Rev. R. H. Dover, the young men of the town found in him a good friend and teacher. The places of worship in the village contain accommodation for about 3000 worshippers. There is certainly less drunkenness in Wilsden than in many places of equal size. The people of the village are very musically inclined. Before the advent of the organ into village chapels, and where there was not sufficient talent in the instrumental line, some member of the congregation had to be relied on to “strike t’tune.” This arrangement was not always satisfactory, as in the case of a certain chapel at Wilsden some time ago, where it was not uncommon for three or four persons to strike a tune all at once, the one having the strongest lungs succeeding. On one of these occasions a singer who had generally managed his point before had taken cold, and the consequence was that when he had silenced all the rest he broke down himself. Finding himself in a dilemma, he called to a comrade across the chapel, “Hey, Nathan. Thee set t’tune, witta, for I’ve gotten a kittlin i’ mi throit.” There is a good brass band and also a Musical Union.

The population of Wilsden numbered, according to the census of 1871, 3127. By the census of 1851 the population was 3454; therefore the township was more prosperous twenty-five years ago than at the last census. It is somewhat significant that Wilsden was the only township in the North Bierley Union where any decline had taken place. The amount of property assessable in Wilsden in 1815 was £2927. The rateable value is now £8100. The total amount raised from all rates in 1803 was £176 6s. 8d., the rate in the pound amounting to 6s. 8d. The amount raised now in one year is £1700, the rate in the pound being 4s. 8d.

Although the township has probably now recovered the 327 of its population lost during the previous twenty years, it cannot be said that it has made that progress which might have been expected from an established seat of manufacture. One cause of this is that most of the property in the village is in the hands of people not resident in the

township, and thus money which used to be spent in the village goes to benefit other places. The chief obstacle to progress, both locomotive and commercial, however, is to be found in the geographical position of the village. The approaches to it from any direction are very hilly, and during the winter season the roads become almost impassable. There are two or three ways in which these difficulties might be removed if there were enterprise and energy sufficient in the land proprietors and residents. A highway either to Cottingley from the centre of the village by way of the Norr direct, or from Shay Gate down to Sandy Lane Bottom, then along the Chellow Reservoir Valley to Street Gap, would not be expensive. The railway once projected from Saltaire to Colne is also much needed. At present the coal is carted from Bradford and Bingley, and the cost of carting is very heavy. The engine-coal beds of Wilsden and Denholme are fast becoming exhausted, and some substitute will be required for this indispensable commodity. Then, again, the splendid stone quarries of these parts, now locked up for want of outlets, would be opened, and their treasures brought into the market, if better approaches could be obtained either by rail or road. The township has, however, the prospect in a few years of railway accommodation on one side, the Halifax and Keighley line passing through a portion of it.

The little village of Cullingworth is just one of those places that the Rambler meets with unexpectedly in a cross-country walk—so familiar to the Yorkshire dalesman. Lying wide of any railway, it speaks volumes for the native energy which has, unaided by modern locomotive appliances, planted there one of the largest manufacturing establishments to be found in this wool-manipulating district. True, the village from very remote times lay on the track of the old road from Halifax to Keighley, as is indicated by the ancient stone post at the foot of Dolphin Lane—a mountain road leading over Harden Moor. Taking a retrospective glance we can imagine the long strings of pack-horses fighting their way slowly but surely through the heather, led by a sagacious old roadster that knew the way by experience, the rear being brought up by two or three well-armed carriers. Local Highway and Enclosure Acts have, during the present century, done much to improve the facilities of communication, and hence we have such excellent highways as the Halifax and Keighley Road, which skirts Cullingworth along its western extremity. In no long time, it is hoped, Cullingworth will have entered upon the next stage of development—we refer to the projected Halifax and Keighley Railway, *via* Thornton to Bradford.

The village of Cullingworth is pleasantly situated on rising ground commanding a fine view of the Vale of Harden, and having a still loftier background, extending up to Oxenhope and Haworth Moors. Occupying a prominent position in the foreground is the beautiful mansion built by the late Mr. G. H. Townend, nephew of Mr. Edward Townend, whose death, in a short period after its completion, was universally regretted. The mansion is named The Royd, from *royd*, an *essart*, or piece of cleared woodland. A considerable fringe of wood still surrounds the plateau on which the mansion stands, especially in the Hallas Valley, in which is situated the waterfall of Goit Stock, or Hallas Lumb. On the northern side there is a pretty streamlet called Eller Carr Beck, which is joined by Cowhouse Beck and the stream from Manywells, and these, after forming a junction with the waters of Hewenden, together flow down to the River Aire as Harden Beck. The Royd is now the property of Mr. Edward Townend, and is occupied by Mr. Parker, merchant, of Bradford. Ascending Dolphin Lane up to Harden Moor, we meet with an interesting plot of ground, where was to be seen in the early days of aged persons yet living, a cairn or "skirt of stones," which appears to have given the name the place now bears, namely, the "Catstones." This no doubt was the grave of some noted warrior, as we have evidence from other relics in the neighbourhood that these elevated regions were trod by warlike bands in very remote times. The piece of ground adjoining has evidently been enclosed by entrenchments, within which some attempt has been made at cultivation. While upon the Catstones we receive the full benefit of the fine "caller" air from the surrounding moorlands, so exhilarating to a townsman, and have a view of Cullingworth from another aspect. The sloping pastures on the hill side in prospect are rich with herbage, and it is not difficult to ascertain the difference between the "old land" and the more modern "intakes" of Lees Moor and Black Moor. The natural contour of the land gravitates towards Eller Carr, sometimes called Cullingworth Park, which is situated in a deep glen near to the village. Here an artificial lake has been formed, which also serves for mill purposes. The park is nicely wooded, and has pleasant paths and winding walks tastefully laid out on the slopes of the hill. In the summer season it is a famous resort for pic-nicing. This pretty spot has often inspired local rhymsters, one of whom enthusiastically speaks of it as

" Eller Carr, the beautiful,
Eller Carr, the grand,
One of the fairest spots art thou,
In this our native land,"

and so on. Assuredly "Nature and Art in harmony combine" to render the spot a very enjoyable resort. One of the chief features of the grounds is a huge jutting rock called the Mootham Stone, but we can offer no explanation of the name. Tradition has it that there was a cave underneath this stone extending no one knew where; but this has been found to be fabulous by Mr. Goddard and a party, who have recently opened out the entrance to it. The carr has many natural advantages. Water has here been made to lend its magical effects, as in addition to the Eller Carr stream being conducted into the lake, the streamlet called Endon Beck is conveyed over a lofty escarpment, causing a charming cascade of some twenty-five feet in depth. The delightful residence now occupied by Mr. R. Goddard, wool merchant, of Bradford, is situated close by, and was erected by Mr. Frederick Townend, another nephew of Mr. Edward Townend, for his own occupation. He, however, only lived to reside in his new residence a year or two, when, like his brother, he was removed by death. There is a very old farmhouse, named Eller Carr, a short distance away, one of the last residents being named Parker. Eller Carr Mill, which is chiefly worked by water power obtained from the artificial lake above, was built by Joseph Harrison, a cotton spinner, who resided there and worked the mill for some years. Edward Craven, who had been engaged as a contractor of extensive bridge, dock, and public works at Hull and other places, settled at this mill, and in partnership with John Haggas, of Oakworth Hall, made cotton goods and yarns. During this time the mill was enlarged and the adjoining cottages built. Afterwards John Greenwood, of Keighley, took Mr. Haggas's place till about 1830, when the business was changed to worsted, and carried on by Mr. Craven alone till 1853. During this period Mr. Craven was architect and hydraulic engineer for the works of Messrs. Greenwood, of Keighley, and Messrs. Foster, of Denholme, and he acted in that capacity for Mr. Townend on the building of Cullingworth Mill. The reservoir at Eller Carr, with its romantic and beautiful grounds, were laid out by Mr. Craven as a recreation in leisure hours. Eller Carr Mill is now the property of Mr. J. W. Townend, and, like the Woodfield Mill, was intended for weaving, but was given up on Mr. George Henry Townend's death. It is occupied by Messrs. George Peacock & Son.

There are few outlying homesteads on this side of the village which supply us with any material of interest. In most of them the former residents did a little hand-loom weaving in addition to farming—a fact we have had occasion to notice in most of the other districts "round about Bradford." George and Thomas Anderton were in the worsted

and cotton business at Field Head, as were also the occupants of Sugden Houses, once the property of the Ellisons, now belonging to Mr. William Anderton and Mr. F. S. Powell. Low Fold was for many years occupied by "Dosé Wright." Cullingworth Fields Farm was a portion of the property of Joshua Crompton, Esq., the predecessor of the Stansfields of Esholt, who acquired much property by mortgage in Cullingworth belonging to the former struggling generation of yeomen. This farm is now the property of Mr. William Anderton. Several of these properties were anciently made over to the Order of Templars called the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, and the tax is still paid to Mr. Ferrand, the lord of the manor. The four clusters of houses last mentioned occupy the same isolated positions they have done for generations.

Ascending to the higher ground we reach the Halifax and Keighley and Bradford and Colne roads. To the right are Flappit Springs (a few houses at the junction of the above roads), and Laverock Hall, which was once a good edifice in the Elizabethan style. Mr. F. S. Powell, to whom much of the land about this part of Cullingworth belongs, has recently spent many thousand pounds in draining, re-constructing farm buildings and fences, and otherwise developing his property. One valuable improvement consists in opening out a new road in continuation of Upper Lane, which may probably be carried forward to the Bradford and Colne Road. Crossing the Halifax Road we reach the enclosed lands on Black Moor, which have not yet, however, been brought under cultivation. Some rather important works affecting the well-being of Cullingworth are being conducted in the "Lord's Allotment," so named from its having been apportioned to the lord of the manor at the Enclosure. Some years ago Messrs. Moulson, builders, of Bradford, purchased the Lord's Allotment with the view of getting stone, and in sinking for it a workman struck a spring of water of such force that it was with difficulty the man could be drawn up out of its reach. To utilise this valuable spring Mr. Edward Townend purchased the allotment, and offered the water to the villagers at a nominal price on condition that the necessary works were constructed by the Local Board. A tunnel of great depth and length, having two up-shafts, has been made to catch this water, which is conveyed down to the village at a good pressure.

Within a few yards of the Oxenhope Road, leading to the Lord's Allotment, there are some ancient remains, called "Castle-stead Ring," which were supposed by Mr. James, in his "History of Bradford," to belong to the ante-Norman period. At present there only remains about one-fourth part of a circle, presenting the appearance of

a considerable earthwork or rampart. The remainder has been cut away by the construction of the road leading to the allotments. Mr. James supposed that in its completed form this was one of a line of forts raised by the Yorkshire and Lancashire Brigantes or early Britons in their wars with one another, or it may have been an enclosure to guard their cattle while in summer they grazed on the vast slope on which it stands. Other remains of a similar character also bearing the name of Castle-stead Ring, are situated at Moat Hill, some three-quarters of a mile nearer Denholme. So much of the ancient British circle as now remains near the Lord's Allotment is untouched by the plough, but it cannot long remain so. It is well therefore to place on record the whereabouts of this relic of an almost forgotten past. Not far from here was the line of Roman road from Manchester to Ilkley. We are distinctly assured by Dr. Whitaker that the road was "visible between Cullingworth and Hainworth as a paved way more than twelve feet broad, and neatly paved with stones." Mr. John James found traces of it some years ago in Mr. Craven's land at Cullingworth, but was unable to find it on Harden Moor. Mr. Holmes, a local historian, however, seems after repeated search to have discovered a portion near Casty Wood, and also more than a hundred yards of it in an allotment on the moor near Shay-delf, belonging to Mr. John Spencer, of Hainworth. Descending to the village we pass Cold Spring House and farm, built by Mr. Craven, and arrive at Cullingworth Gate, an old portion of the hamlet, where there are the usual adjuncts of like places, namely, a blacksmith's shop, two public-houses—the Fleece and the Gate—and a sprinkling of houses. We have before referred to this Gate as having been one of the entrances to Denholme Park, when the latter formed a vast hunting ground for the ancient lords of the manor.

The Nook, the residence of Mr. Edwd. Townend and Mr. J. W. Townend, his nephew, and the most pretentious mansion in the neighbourhood, occupies the site of an old farmhouse which in 1735 was the property of John Waddington—one of a celebrated Cullingworth family. It is supposed to have got its name from having been a corner or "nook" of the above park. It was afterwards occupied by William Townend, the grandfather of the members of the eminent firm of Townend Brothers, and in their hands the surroundings of the old Nook Farm have received considerable embellishment. It is said that he who makes two blades of grass to grow where but one grew before is a benefactor to his kind. Surely, then, he who enriches a country-side with trees with which it would not be otherwise naturally endowed, also deserves well of his country. This has been very successfully

accomplished by the recent possessors of the Nook. The Townend family have been a tower of strength to Cullingworth, and have acquired an extensive paternal estate. Old Simeon Townend, son of the above-named William, who resided at the Nook Farm, was an oil merchant, and removed to Denholme, where he died. The founder of the fortunes of the family, however, was George, his son, who when residing in Denholme, about 1804, began to make heald yarn, aided by workmen from Lancashire, who spun it on "throstles" turned by hand. He also managed the copperas works for his Aunt Hirst. Notwithstanding the disapprobation of old William, George soon after built a small mill of two floors and a cellar on a streamlet of the Nook estate, which mill was enlarged in 1823, and again in 1840 and 1860, until it has expanded to the magnificent dimensions of the present works. Up to the time of his death in 1837 George was the managing partner; he was a shrewd man of business, and in all the relations of life respected and beloved. He was a gentleman and a Christian, without ostentation, but of solid worth. After the death of Mr. George Townend, his family removed to Bradford, where his sons—Mr. Simeon Townend, now of Legrams, and Messrs. G. E. and W. H. Townend—now conduct business on their own account. The brothers William and Robert continued the business, with their younger brother Edward. William died in 1844, leaving an only daughter, the present Miss Eliza Townend, of Manningham. Robert was stationed at Manchester, where he died in 1862. He, too, was a thorough business man, while his whole bearing was that of a Christian gentleman. Of a pleasing and winning exterior, this was but a faithful indication of the better qualities of the inner man. While quite young he became a class leader in the Methodist society, and in his class his elder brother George continued to meet until Robert's removal to Manchester. On his death the firm consisted of Edward, the present senior partner, with Joseph Wrigley, George Henry and Frederick, sons of Mr. Robert Townend. As previously stated, the two latter have since died, Frederick in 1870, and George in 1872. Mr. Edward Townend has added to the paternal estate other properties in and near Cullingworth, which he has greatly improved by a liberal treatment and outlay.

Not far from the village is the substantial house called the Hallas, or Hallas Hall, which is now the property of Mr. Edward Townend, and with the adjoining land forms a very extensive farmstead. A stroll round the farm buildings affords sufficient indication of the business-like manner in which Mr. Townend conducts his farming operations. Although the building now known as the Hallas only

dates from 1737, there has undoubtedly been a much older building bearing the same name near at hand. A tradition exists in the neighbourhood that that building stood about two fields' length nearer to the Goit Stock waterfall, and that some of the stones of which the present building is composed were brought from the old Hallas. Two fields here are still named "The Old Hallases." Mr. John James saw it repeatedly spelt in ancient deeds "Hallows," which he attributes to some superstition of our forefathers. In the Escheats Rolls, 13th of Elizabeth, it is stated that Nicholas Tempest, of Bolling Hall, held lands and tenements in the "Hallows" of the Queen, by the same tenure as his manor of Allerton. Even yet the sum of 3s. 7½d. per year is paid to the lord of the manor out of Hallas for King's rent. From this we infer that the Hallas was part of the property which Byland Abbey possessed in this neighbourhood, and that it afterwards reverted to the Crown. Hallas Hall and manor were during the early part of last century the property of Mr. Thomas Hodgson, who is described as a merchant of Fairweather Green. He was the predecessor of "Dicky Hodgson," of Whetley. Thos. Hodgson seems to have had extensive possessions, amounting in the aggregate to 850 acres, in Manningham, Allerton, Birkclose (near Rombalds Moor), and at Hallas. He died in 1746. The Hallas estate comprised about 650 acres, 300 acres being under cultivation and 350 moorland. The principal tenants were John Anderton, who held 200 acres; James Jowett and James Mitchell. Mr. Joseph Smith, of Bradford, was nearly half a century ago the steward for this property on behalf of the Rev. Thomas Hodgson Iles, Mr. John Iles, Captain Letch, and Captain Loft, who had become possessors of the Hallas property by marriage. Mr. George Belk Smith succeeded his father as steward, and is now the agent for the unsold portions of the estates. Thirty years ago the Hallas estate, comprising the manor, was divided and brought into the market for sale. Subsequently, Mr. Edward Townend purchased the Hallas farm, Mr. John Anderton, of Bents, the Cote land, and Mr. Edwd. Pickles bought a large portion of the Intakes, which adjoined property already belonging to his family. The woods of Hallas, with the waterfall, were sold to Mr. Ferrand, and the remaining moorland, carrying manorial rights, was bought by Mr. Joseph Smith, the steward.

The John Anderton mentioned above lived at Hallas in 1758, and probably before that period. He was the predecessor of the Andertons of Cullingworth, Bradford, and Cleckheaton, having had nine sons, from whom sprang these several branches of the family. He may truly be considered one of the fathers of the wool trade, and the

trade has "run in the blood" ever since. The old stapler was also a cattle dealer, and, accompanied by one or two of his sons, he drove his herds into Lincolnshire and Leicestershire for sale, buying wool with the produce. This wool he stored at Hallas, and the marks of the "crane" may now be seen on a portion of the building. According to his account books, wool was then £4 a pack. His customers came to Hallas to buy wool from a wide range, extending into Lancashire. The old man died at Hallas. His eldest son, James, seems to have been his father's right-hand man, and some time before old John's death he removed to Bradford, living at Boldshay Hall, and on the opening of the Bradford canal, took the warehouses at the canal basin in Broadstones. He was joined in business at Bradford by two younger sons. Another of the old stapler's sons, named John, commenced weaving at Cullingworth, and was the first and, for some time, the only employer in the village. There were few, indeed, to need employment then in the score of houses of which the village was composed, but those in out-lying places made up the working staff of a little prosperous business. John Anderton's warehouse and "putting-out" shop were in the building since converted into the George Hotel, Cullingworth, and he and his family lived at the Manor House in the Town Gate, which is still called "Anderton's." He also carried on the wool business, in conjunction with his two oldest sons, in the building since enlarged and occupied by Messrs. G. & W. Townend, Cheapside, Bradford. On the death of his father, the third son, William, continued the Cullingworth business, and employed a good number of weavers in the making of "drawboys," the market for which was at Halifax. A good business was done in this class of goods, chiefly for export, until the French war broke out, when the trade was ruined, and with it the fortunes of Halifax Piece-hall. The little piece-makers who marketed at Halifax then turned their attention to shalloons, says, &c. William Anderton removed to Bingley in 1825, and there adopted the power-loom system, by which he made an ample fortune. The seventh son of John of Hallas, named Jonathan, practised as a medical man at Keighley. His son Swithin, however, entered the Bradford trade, and founded the large business which is still successfully carried on by his sons. The Cleckheaton branch of this numerous and successful family sprang from Joseph Anderton, another son of John of Hallas, who went into the wool business at White Shaw, Denholme. He was the father of the late Mr. George Anderton, of Cleckheaton. The Hallas farm was, after the death of the patriarch, John Anderton, occupied by the Nichols family, who were thriving farmers in addition to being engaged in the worsted and

corn trades. There were of this family Richard, Abraham, William, Samuel, and John. Previous to Mr. Townend purchasing the farm, Stephen Wright lived at it and farmed the land.

Hallas Cote, another old homestead not far from Hallas Hall, with which it was probably at one time connected, was for generations occupied by the Wrights, of which family we have handed down the names of Jim o' Peter's, Adam, and John. This family were at one time very numerous in the vicinity. After the death of John Anderton, of Bents, in 1867, the Hallas Cote came into the possession of Benj. Anderton, of Sydenham, and John Anderton, of Springfield, Bingley, sons of Joseph Anderton, and grandsons of the above John of Hallas, and is still farmed by the Jowetts, who were tenants in the old man's time.

Having thus cursorily noticed the outskirts of the hamlet, it may be stated that the village itself contains a well-built Gothic church, a Wesleyan chapel, a Baptist chapel, two commodious day schools, &c., and some fairly-built cottage property, notably the "model dwellings" at the lower end of the village, erected by Mr. Wrigley Townend. Sixty years ago the entire number of dwellings was thirty-eight, and the village street consisted of eight farm houses, four on each side, and a few cottages. The eight farmers were mostly of the yeoman class, and farmed their own lands. All but one of these were christened John. There were two John Waddingtons, the pair being distinguished colloquially by the names of Gentleman John and Joiner John. Next were John Midgley and John Ellison. On the other side were George Townend, John Anderton, John Leach, and John Northrop. Nearly all the farms once owned by the above have become the property of Mr. F. S. Powell, by descent from his ancestor, Mr. Bridges, of Horton Old Hall. A family named Hollindrake was of ancient date in Cullingworth. In proof of this we may mention that under date 5th October, 1475, mention is made of John Holynrake, of Kellingworth. Their property included two messuages near where the church now stands, which came to the Midgleys. Next to the Ellisons and Midgleys the Northrops may be named as among the oldest Cullingworthites, and they "stick well to the soil." This family trace their descent from John de Northrop, of Manningham, to whom John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, confirmed by a singular tenure three messuages and six oxgangs of land in Manningham, for which Northrop and his heirs were required "to come to Bradford on the blowing of a horn in winter, and to wait upon him and his heirs on their way from Blackburnshire, with a lance and hunting dog for forty days," and some other feudal services. The first row of cottages

erected at Cullingworth, indicating the prosperity of manufactures, was built by "Gentleman John" about 1815, since which time the village has gradually advanced to be a place of some consideration.

In pursuance of the Enclosure Act, a survey of the common lands was made in 1816, the principal landowners at that time being James Fox, Esq., lord of the manor; Joshua Crompton, John Waddington, John Midgley, Joseph Lund, John Barnaby, Matthew Foster, James Briggs, and George Anderton. The waste lands and encroachments amounted to 379 acres, besides which there was the Royd Wood, of over nine acres. According to this award, six quarries, varying from two roods to one acre in extent, were ordered to be left for the use of the public highway surveyor and his successors for ever; and also six perches for a pinfold, which six perches should be "for ever used as such for the benefit of the inhabitants of Cullingworth." The villagers, however, have dispensed with that time-honoured institution, and the pinder's "occupation's gone." Joseph Leach was the last who held the office.

The extensive works of Messrs Townend Brothers are of course the most prominent feature of the village, as, in fact, they are almost the only source of employment. The principal works lie compactly together in quadrangular form, although the firm have another mill which is detached, and own besides two other mills in the village. The special business carried on by Messrs. Townend, and for which they have acquired commercial celebrity, is that of the manufacture of heald and genappe yarns, poplin and mohair yarns and genappes, &c. It may be stated that they were the first makers of worsted heald yarns in the Bradford district. In spite of more recent competition Messrs. Townend have maintained and increased their early reputation, and have amply reaped the fruits of energy. The original mill is, of course, "nowhere" now, and its fifty "hands," although a large number for that time of day, are represented at present by about 800. Messrs. Townend's business differs from the ordinary Bradford trade, as they are not "piece-makers." Instead, therefore, of the usual array of looms going "clickatty-clack," we are shown room after room of drawing and roving frames, gill boxes, doubling and trebling frames, cap spinning, cap doubling, &c., while other rooms are devoted to Lister's and Noble's combing machines, and treble carding engines. Formerly the work done by these machines was performed by hand-combers, of whom the firm employed upwards of 700. The material employed is the best English wool, on account of the strength of fibre required in the particular description of yarn made. The engine-room contains four engines, of about 400-horse power. The cleanliness

apparent, and the abundant appliances at hand as a protection against fire, are all indicative of a well-ordered establishment. Leaving the spinning premises, we take a peep at the "laundry," where the process of "washing-made-easy" is in active operation, the several articles being finished off in the hot-air chamber. In connection with these mills there are extensive works for the manufacture of grease extracted from the suds used in the scouring of the wool. After the grease is extracted the refuse water undergoes a filtering process through a succession of tanks composed of ashes, &c., finally entering the beck in a perfectly pure condition. The firm are noted for the number of "old hands" employed, several having worked for them for nearly half a century. One man, named John Rusby, who died in 1854, was employed by the firm for forty-six years, during forty-three of which he walked daily to and from Denholme. It is calculated that during that time he walked a distance of 53,664 miles !

Messrs. Townend also work coal pits at Denholme, known as the Dean Brow, Hazel Crook, and Holling Hall pits, in which are employed about 200 men and boys. These collieries supply a superior coal for the gasworks (from which the firm supply their works and also the village), besides good house and engine coal.

A corn mill and a worsted mill were built in Cullingworth by Mr. John Briggs about forty years ago ; the former being worked some years by Benjamin, son of Edward Craven, the latter by John Anderton before his removal to Bents Mill. These premises have been enlarged by Messrs. Townend and adapted to their business. A weaving mill was also built by Mr. Wilkinson, of Harden, at Cowhouse Bridge, for Mr. William Harrop, and was worked by him for some years. This is known as Woodfield Mill, and is also the property of Messrs. Townend. There is a small building at Cowhouse Upper Fold which was converted into a worsted mill in 1803 by Andrew Moulding and his family, who had been turned out of their homestead at Marley for setting up two "throstles" in the house. Here they commenced spinning, and set up a five-horse engine. Joseph and Samuel Moulding, sons of Andrew, continued the business. About the same time, in Cowhouse Lower Fold, the Sharp family also commenced in a very humble way in the worsted trade, but presently removed to Harden Mill, which had been built for them by Mr. Knowles. The old tannery at Cowhouse, now in the occupation of Messrs. Holmes & Towers, was, before his removal to Goitstock, tenanted by Timothy Horsfall.

The name of Cullingworth does not appear in existing records of Wesleyanism so early as some others, it being probably included in the larger village of Haworth. In 1777, however, a class existed, con-

sisting of the following eight members, viz., Jeremiah Binns, Amy Binns, Joseph Waddington, Sarah Waddington, Jeremiah Rhodes, Barbara Hollindrake, Jonas Hollindrake, and Joseph Crowther. Jeremiah Rhodes was leader for forty years, and after his death David Binns became the leader. David, it is said, was somewhat peculiar in his views, and looked upon the wearing of "trousers" as a sad development of pride. It is reported that he positively objected to any one meeting in his class who did not wear knee-breeches ! The first place in which Methodist services were held in Cullingworth was the house of Joseph Waddington. Afterwards John Northrop's house became the place of meeting. Soon after 1800 a chapel was talked about, but the way was not clear how it was to be raised. At last John Ellison, a most unlikely individual to grant such a request, was prevailed upon to give the land and materials of an old barn towards the new chapel, he, however, stipulating that he should have a front pew in the gallery, *lined with green*, secured for his use for ever ! This building was completed in 1806. It is situated in the Town Gate, and, since the building of the new chapel, has been sold to Mr. F. S. Powell in exchange for another strip of land. During the existence of the old chapel a spiritual "revival" took place, and new life was given to Methodism, then and for some years after the only religious organisation in the village. Among those whose names have left a hallowed remembrance of that period may be given those of George and Robert Townend, Thomas Robertshaw, John Law, and Thomas Anderton. The awfully sudden death of the latter produced a solemn impression in the village. The first Sunday school was commenced in the old chapel by Edward Craven before named, and Thomas Pickles, shoemaker. Mr. George Hanson, of Wilsden, also took an active part in its promotion. The following is a copy of the placard (9in. by 7in.) announcing the anniversary, or "charity" sermon, as it was then called—

"CHARITY SERMON.—On Sunday, June 2nd, 1816, a Charity Sermon will be preached in the Methodist Chapel, Cullingworth, for the support of the Sunday School of that place, by the Rev. Thomas Barritt. Service to begin at two o'clock. Appropriate pieces to be spoken by the scholars."

Famous events were these "charity sermons" of the olden time, when "talent," vocal and instrumental, came from all the country-side to assist. Tom Parker, the "Yorkshire Braham," was in great request on these festive occasions. The present chapel was opened in June, 1825, having cost £2980. Mr. Edward Craven was the architect. The Townend family were among its chief promoters, and the collections and subscriptions at the opening amounted to £643. The chapel was

enlarged and an organ added in 1861, at a further cost of £1100, the whole of which was raised at the time. The minister's house was built in 1867, costing £740. The first Wesleyan day school was commenced in 1844, in the old chapel, Mr. Joseph Pollard being engaged as master. The present master is Mr. J. B. Smith. Large schools, of handsome Gothic design, were built in 1851, at a cost of £2200. About two acres of land were purchased from Mr. E. Townend, for the school and also for the Cemetery adjoining. In 1854 a schoolmaster's house was added adjoining the school.

About 1835 the Rev. M. Saunders, of Haworth, being invited by Baptist families in and near Cullingworth, held services in the village, and engaged the Oddfellows' Hall for public worship. This effort resulted in the formation of a Baptist church and a Sunday school, and the erection of the chapel in 1837. The latter is an unpretending but convenient building, and was erected from a design by Mr. Nichols, of Hewenden. The founders of the Baptist Church were Messrs. W. S. and R. S. Nichols, Thomas Green, John Robinson, Robert Hartley, Jonas Sugden, Sarah Taylor, Isaac Constantine, Abraham Moulding and Ellen Gregson. The Rev. J. Harvey was the first pastor, and was highly respected by all in the village. In 1874 were added to the chapel a new vestry and organ, costing £200. The chapel trust is burdened by no incumbrance. For the past eight years the chapel has been without minister, but that office has recently been accepted by Mr. C. B. Berry.

About the year 1845, while Mr. Cheadle was vicar of Bingley, a Mission connected with the Church of England was first actively promoted in Cullingworth, and at length a conventional parish was marked out, the Rev. Mr. Poyntz being appointed curate-in-charge. For a few months his ministrations were carried on in the Oddfellows' Lodge-room, when he left, and was succeeded by the Rev. Timothy Brayshaw, who, after a stay of less than two years, became head master of the Grammar School, Keighley. In the year 1847, the Rev. J. H. Mitchell was appointed to the incumbency, at that time more like a missionary station, unprovided with school, church, or parsonage, a small room being licensed for divine service. Soon after his appointment the present school-room was built, which thenceforth was used for both services and teaching. In 1853 followed the erection of the church at a cost of about £2000, on an elevated site presented by Mr. F. S. Powell, of Horton Hall, who also laid the foundation-stone. It is a substantial edifice in Gothic, named St. John's. From the same gentleman was procured the gift of an eligible site for the vicarage up in the village. In the Rev. J. H. Mitchell the inhabitants found a

friend always ready to promote their spiritual and temporal welfare. Having a sound practical knowledge of chemistry and other branches of science, he spent many of his leisure hours in instructing the young men who desired to study these subjects, and was successful in fitting them to pass the examinations of the Science Department. He was a genial, hearty, neighbourly man, and of him it may truly be said that he "lived his religion." As a neighbour he was generous to a fault. He had a hand "open as day to melting charity," although his means were none of the largest. He died on the 21st of June, 1873, and a chastely-executed cross of polished granite has been placed over his grave in the churchyard by Mrs. Mitchell, to serve as an enduring testimony to future generations of the faith which he preached and the motive power of his work. The Rev. R. Stansfield succeeded in August, 1873, and the following year the church underwent a thorough restoration and renovation. The central window over the communion table is in memory of the Rev. J. H. Mitchell; that on the north side is in memory of George Henry Townend, Esq., of The Royd, and was provided by his widow. Mr. Stansfield was succeeded in 1875 by the Rev. R. Cockerham, the present vicar. The ecclesiastical parish of St. John's comprised in 1871 1854 persons. The living is valued at £150.

Cullingworth old school was erected nearly a hundred years ago, and was endowed by the lord of the manor and the freeholders with a piece of waste land. It stood originally near where the gates to the Nook are placed, and a field extending thence to Cullingworth Gate was its endowment. John Horsfall, John White, and Paul Thompson were among the earliest masters. The latter was fairly representative of that class of village schoolmaster whose professional career brings them little credit. One smart saying, is, however, attributed to him. Being charged with neglecting his scholars (they had not aspired to the title of "pupils" in those days) he was one day caught dyeing his stockings during school hours, and excused himself by saying, "I must *dye* to live." Mr. Bower also wielded the ruler during a long period, having charge of the sons and daughters of the inhabitants of the village, and those of Denholme, Hallas, Bents, &c., both gentle and simple. Many of them yet remember the force with which under his "rule" the three "R's" were driven into them. The trusteeship of the village school and its endowment having fallen into the hands of Mr. Charnock (son-in-law of Gentleman John), "in holy orders" but without cure, and who spent most of his time in "Bedfordshire," the property was alienated to the new church-school built upon it, the inhabitants being ignored in the matter. The old school was then pulled down, and its site added to the adjoining estate.

Cullingworth possesses a flourishing branch of the Bingley Co-operative Society, established in May, 1871. The St. Peter's Lodge, Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, was formed at Cullingworth in 1832. The members of this lodge also built the Oddfellows' Hall in 1835, which is the only public room in the village. Court 129 (You're Welcome In) of the Order of Foresters, was established in 1834. The Rose of Sharon Lodge, of the Peaceful Dove, was established in 1845. A branch of the Yorkshire Penny Bank was opened in January, 1860, which has steadily increased since its formation, and has now £3000 belonging to depositors.

The mental and moral activity excited in Cullingworth by the Temperance Society, the Sunday schools and evening classes, from 1830 to 1840, had the effect of developing the intelligence and enterprise of a number of young men who, unfortunately for the village and its institutions, removed to Bradford and elsewhere. A host of pushing business men, occupying important positions in Bradford, might be named, who hail from Cullingworth and that district. In fact, Bradford is the El Dorado to which the rising energy of the place naturally drifts, and some have really found it to be so. Among those well known in the village may be mentioned the late Mr. John Midgley, who was a farmer, road manager, and for twenty and thirty miles around used to survey and contract for the highways; also the noted coach proprietors, William Bracewell & Sons, who ran their coaches to Halifax, Keighley, Skipton, Leeds, Bradford, &c.; and William Craven, Esq., of Cold Spring House, one of the noted firm of railway contractors. Of those not natives who were long associated with the village may be named Isaac Holden, Esq., of Oakworth House, who came here in 1831 from Paisley, as bookkeeper to Townend Brothers, and remained in their service about sixteen years.

The village has been recently well paved and drained by the Bingley Township Local Board, but not without the usual "ratepayers' growl." The health-rate of Cullingworth is good, and no epidemic has existed for some years. The village has its "Idle Hill" at the bottom of the Towngate; but not until "th' engine's stopped," and the big gates of "th' mill" are open, is there an idler to be seen,—and *then* there is a clatter indeed! Little building is going on, but when the projected railway is completed, doubtless new life will be imparted to the village.

We must now take leave of the Harden Valley, and direct our researches elsewhere. We quit the district with a growing admiration of its natural attractiveness; no longer wondering that it should be so dear to many whom circumstances have compelled to remove from it.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

HEATON—FRIZINGHALL—SHIPLEY—SALTAIRE—
BAILDON.

HEATON should be a happy place, seeing that it includes both Paradise and Eden. The township is straggling and extensive, extending from Dumb Mill, at Frizinghall, to Sandy Lane Bottom, Allerton. It is somewhat remarkable that the only factories in the township are situated at the extreme points of its boundary, the titled possessor of five-sixths of the township being wont to boast that no factory of any description disfigures her estate. A large portion of the land in the township lay open and waste until the close of last century, but was enclosed under an Act obtained in the year 1780. What Heaton was it in great measure remained up to within the last dozen years—noted alike for garden “peys” and rusticity. The approaches Bradford-wards are indeed strangely altered; and as to the roads! Well, they remind one of the old couplet,

“If you’d seen these roads before they were made,
You’d lift up your hands and bless General Wade.”

Old inhabitants tell us that Squire Field’s usual turn-out of four horses was often augmented to six before he and his family could be dragged through the “sloughs” lying between Heaton and Bradford! Thanks to Marshal Macadam and General Granite there are no sloughs now, but instead we have the fine boulevard called North Park Road, reaching up to the entrance of the village itself. The main street remains much as it has done for many years, but even here traces of improvement are visible, which are in great measure due to the desire of Lady Rosse and her agents, Messrs. Smith & Gotthardt, to remodel the old portion of the village. In the very centre of it an immense quarry has been opened within the past two years, which has cleared off a number of fever-lurking cottages. The stone from here is of splendid quality, and at the present rate of “getting” will soon be exhausted. When this is effected the delph holes will be filled up from some of the older deposits, and an even surface obtained.

The general contour of the land about Heaton, abounding as it does in gentle undulations, is of the most pleasing description, and the lower part of the township is ornamented with fine woods. As a residential neighbourhood it presents considerable attractions, but the

Field family have hitherto offered few facilities for the increase of residences of any description, choosing rather to acquire than dispose of property. The Countess of Rosse, however, has been induced to grant leases of 999 years for building purposes upon her extensive estate, and in addition, her agents have prepared a most comprehensive plan for laying out and developing the estate. The Marriner family have also recently disposed of plots for villa residences and a site for the new Airedale College—a building to supply the place of the present Airedale College at Undercliffe, which has become unsuitable. The foundation-stone of the new college was laid in October, 1874. The building is in the geometrical ornamental style of architecture, the principal front being towards Lister Park, and will present a total length of 200 feet. The grounds are being tastefully laid out, and altogether, looking at the advantageous nature of the site, this collegiate institution will be a handsome addition to the public buildings of the town and neighbourhood. The cost of the whole will be about £20,000. Messrs. Lockwood & Mawson, of Bradford, are the architects. The institution is to be on the basis of the non-residence of students.

It is singular that Heaton and Clayton were in the reign of Elizabeth linked together as one township for administrative purposes. The severance was only made in the year 1701. From that period each township has managed its own affairs. A hundred years ago the town's officers of Heaton were—Nicholas Wood, Jere. Frankland, Samuel Crabtree, and Henry Atkinson, and afterwards follow such names as Edward Brooks, Richard Brierley, Joseph Child, Michael Firth, Abram Rhodes, John Scott, William Crabtree, Thomas Lister, Henry Barmby, John Bastow, William Bailey, James Murgatroyd, and James Hargreaves, these names covering the period until 1800. For many years previous to 1825 the town's meetings were held at Sarah Brook's, and afterwards at Betty Clark's, but from the year 1831 they were held in the vestry of the Baptist Chapel. In 1851 a paid surveyor of highways was appointed at a salary of £12 10s. per annum, Benjamin Silson being that officer. In 1863 the Local Government Act was adopted and a Local Board formed, Mr. J. B. Hammond being the returning officer. The board for 1875 consisted of Messrs. John Crabtree (chairman), Joseph Kaye, W. H. Townend, Joseph Slingsby, John Lee, James Tidswell, and J. E. Bonville. The Local Board are bestirring themselves to provide the village with water, which in summer is in great scarcity. For this purpose they are constructing a service reservoir, to contain 2,000,000 gallons, from which pipes will be laid to all the habitable parts of the district. The

supply of water will come from the high level service of the Bradford Corporation. Mr. James Lumley, of Bradford, is the engineer of the works. Drainage works, street and other improvements are also contemplated by the Local Board. In 1801 the population of Heaton was 951. Notwithstanding its proximity to the large town of Bradford the present population does not much exceed 2000. The rateable value is about £10,000.

Although not mentioned in the Domesday record, Heaton (originally spelt Heton or Highton) is entitled to respect on account of its antiquity. It seems that this manor, along with Chellow, belonged to the Everinghams. From the Everinghams the manor came to the Leeds family, Roger de Leeds being returned Lord of the Manor in 1316. Two hundred years later Henry Batt, of Oakwell Hall, near Birstal, was in possession. It is probable that the Batts sold the manor to the Fields, a female representative of which family now holds it. The family of Feld or Field is of very ancient descent, a William Feld, of Bradford, being named in 1480. The family had estates at Horton, Shipley, Heaton, and Ardsley. Edmund Field, the founder of the family at Heaton, having purchased property there, held lands of the King in 1615; and Joseph Field, his son, is returned as lord of the manor of Heaton in 1635. Several members of the family succeeded until it came to Joshua Field, a magistrate, who was born at Heaton in 1742, and who married, in 1775, Mary, sole heiress of Randal Wilmer, Esq., of Helmsley, a representative of the ancient baronial house of Thwenge. Joshua died in 1819, leaving the estates to his eldest son, John Wilmer Field, born 1775, Lord of the Manor of Heaton; to which he added Shipley, Barnby, and Alverthorp. Mr. Field was a magistrate, and for some time an officer in the Royal Horse Guards Blue. He was twice married, and died in January, 1837, leaving two daughters, Mary and Delia, co-heiresses, who married respectively Lord Oxmantown, afterwards Earl of Rosse, and the Hon. Arthur Duncombe (now Admiral Duncombe), son of Lord Feversham. Both have issue.

By the will of her father, the Shipley and Heaton estates went to Mary, the wife of Lord Oxmantown, other estates near Beverley falling to her sister Delia. The first-named property has, however, proved by far the more valuable. Shortly after the marriage of Lord Oxmantown, he succeeded to the title of Earl of Rosse, his family mansion and estates being at Burr Castle, Parsonstown, Ireland. The earl died in Dublin in 1867, aged sixty-seven, leaving the Countess and four surviving sons, the eldest, Laurence, succeeding to the title. The late earl rose to considerable distinction from his scientific attainments.

His name, however, will in popular estimation be chiefly associated with the wonderful telescope he erected on his own estate at Parsonstown, in Ireland—a work of great labour, expense and time—commenced in 1828 and completed in 1845, at a cost of above £20,000. It still remains the most wonderful instrument in Europe, being the largest and most perfect ever constructed. The late earl, independent of his scientific attainments, was a genial companion and a liberal landlord, but although the owner of considerable landed property at Heaton and Shipley, he seldom visited this part of the country, and was never a permanent resident hereabouts. Lady Rosse still survives, residing chiefly at Dublin and Parsonstown, Ireland. Her ladyship maintains an active interest in her Heaton estates, and a warm attachment for Heaton Hall, the scene of her early days.

This substantial family residence, one of the few old mansions remaining in our immediate neighbourhood, occupies an admirable position on the high ground within a well-wooded park, and is the most prominent object in the village. Its erection is attributed to John Field, the second lord of the manor, who succeeded to the estates in 1660. The old hall has, however, been much enlarged, and encased on the south and east by a frontage of considerable pretensions, the prevailing feature being the dressed stone columns and pediments with which the windows and entrances are relieved. A wing has also been added more recently. A portion of this wing was long tenanted by Mr. Timothy Stocks, for many years the steward of John Wilmer Field, and afterwards of Lady Rosse. It is now occupied by his son-in-law, Mr. J. B. Hammond. In the old billiard-room still remain many of the old family pictures, and a portion of the library. The hall itself is occupied on a lease by Mr. W. H. Townend, wool merchant, who has effected considerable improvements both in the interior and exterior. Heaton Hall in the heyday of its reputation was a lively place, the long line of stabling and out-offices affording some indication of the style of living indulged in by its former proprietors. At one time it was the head-quarters of a numerous stud of hunters, and a pack of hounds was domiciled just outside the park wall. The huge kitchen is itself a study, and on great occasions, when its culinary resources were in full request, one might easily imagine such a scene as

“Oft would cheer

A poor man's heart through half the year.”

Old Joshua Field made the hall his constant residence, and took an active part in the affairs of the village. He is described as having

been a very sociable squire, who knew everybody in the township. His son, John Wilmer Field, also for some time resided here, but latterly lived in London, where he died after a short illness. He is spoken of as a gentleman possessing some good qualities. We believe both father and son were connected with the banking firm of Wickham, Field & Cleaver. Another son, young Joshua, was a great favourite during his residence at Heaton. He married Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Wm. Wainman, Esq., of Carr Head.

The hall was for thirty years the residence of Henry Harris, Esq., of the firm of Harris & Co., bankers, of Bradford. For many a long year will his name be cherished and his kindly smile be remembered in Heaton. Mr. Harris was born at Walworth, near London, in 1789. He came to Bradford in 1811, when it was a comparatively insignificant place, and became a partner in the Bradford Old Bank, established a little earlier by Mr. Edmund Peckover, and which had been carried on by him and Mr. Charles Harris. From that date until the year 1864 Mr. Harris took an active part in the management of the bank, and after its conversion into a joint-stock company in that year he was also a director. In religion he was a member of the Society of Friends. Previous to his removal to Heaton Hall, Mr. Harris resided for many years in Kirkgate, Bradford, in a comfortable house situated in its own grounds, on the site now occupied by Victoria Buildings. In 1869 he purchased Longwood, near Bingley, and died there in March, 1872, having nearly completed his 83rd year. Mr. Harris was a considerable benefactor to local and other charities, but his loss was chiefly felt by the poor, to whom he was ever a kind friend.

On the western side of the hall stands a fine old house, having over the door the inscription I. G., 1681. The initials are supposed to be those of a family named Garth. This excellent example of an English homestead of the period, with the land belonging to it, was long since purchased by the Field family, and still forms part of the Rosse estate. In the beginning of the present century it was occupied by Thomas Brook, who farmed the land. His wife survived him many years. During Widow Brook's time the house was made into the village hostelry, with the jolly title of the "Punch Bowl." The original village "public," however, existed near Cross Hill Top, and it was in consequence of that building being pulled down to save its committing suicide that the licence was transferred to Widow Brook's. The present King's Arms, originally the Mason's Arms, is of comparatively recent erection. Betty Clark dealt out cakes and ale here in olden times. In the time when the old Bradford and

Keighley Road (by way of Toller Lane and Cottingley) was much frequented, a public-house also existed at Leylands (pronounced Lillams) and another, called the Brown Cow, in Toller Lane. By the making of the new Bingley road, however, the vehicular traffic was almost entirely diverted, and hence came into existence the "Branch," at Shipley Lane Head, and the Turf Tavern. The old Brown Cow was kept by John Crabtree, a well-known member of the numerous Heaton family of that name. John, however, came by his death (shortly before the house was ruined) through his connection with the Yorkshire Hussars, of which he was a member. In the year 1826, memorable for the power-loom riots in Bradford, and the attack on Horsfall's mill, he was in the saddle for three days at the latter place, from the consequences of which he shortly afterwards succumbed. His widow, Elizabeth Crabtree, with her large family, afterwards removed to the new "Branch" public-house, built by Mr. John Wilmer Field. Another well-known hostelry in Toller Lane, the Hare and Hounds, but oftener called the "Dog and Rattan," has been kept by Nathan Firth for upwards of forty years.

At Heaton Royds we are introduced to another interesting old place, the ancient abode of the Dixons, who have held the property for 300 years. In 1564 William Dixon, of Heaton Royds, filed a bill against the then lord of the manor of Heaton and several freeholders to compel them to restore a considerable portion of the common which they had enclosed. The Dixons were a noted Presbyterian family. One member was a captain in Cromwell's army. Jeremy Dixon, who died in 1725, devised his estate at Heaton Royds to a Joshua Dixon, of Leeds. He also devised an estate at Birchinlee, near Wilsden, for the benefit of the minister for the time being of the old Presbyterian meeting-house in Chapel Lane, Bradford, near which he lies buried. The family were in early times connected with the Leeds trade as merchants, but later branches furnished several officers high in command in the army. The family is now represented by the Rev. John Dixon, of Bournemouth, and Mr. Benjamin Dixon, deputy-clerk of the peace, Wakefield. Over the door of the old house now standing are the initials I. D., and the date 1632. For generations Heaton Royds Farm has been occupied by the Firth family, who also tenanted for a long period Heaton Shay, adjoining. It is now in the occupation of Hannah Crabtree, who was also a Firth. "Dawson Farm," was sold by John Dawson, in 1809, to Joshua Field, Esq., of Heaton Hall, for £2210. The lot included seven houses, a barn, and forty-two days' work of land. This farm came into the Dawson family, of Wrose, by intermarriage with the Brooksbanks, in whose posses-

sion it had been for generations. "Gill Farm," which lies adjacent to the Shay, is another homestead long associated with the family from which its name is taken.

Heaton Syke formerly consisted of an old farmstead and one or two cottages which are still standing. The Syke occupies a beautiful position on the sunny side of the hill on the Heaton road. The Saxon term "syke" would indicate the boggy nature of the ground formerly. Thus we have Carr Syke a little lower down on the same stream, from "carr," a hollow. The large reservoir of the Bradford Corporation which receives its supply from the watershed of the Wharfe, by means of a conduit nearly twenty miles in length, is close by the Syke. The row of country-looking cottages fronting south was erected when the common land was enclosed, and soon afterwards the allotment gardens were made in which, doubtless, the celebrated "Heaton peys" were grown. The Fountain Inn and adjoining cottages have been erected within the past twenty years.

There are several old homesteads scattered within the township, but we can only name Hardy's, at Sandy Lane, and Tetley's, at Chellow. Chellow was a manor of itself, and is so referred to in Domesday Book. The first lord of the manor gave this place to the monks of Selby Abbey, "for the good of his soul and that of Isabel, his wife," about the year 1220. By virtue of this gift the Abbot of Selby was lord of the manor, and had here a farm-house, the site of which is still known as Chellow Grange. The Grange is the property of J. A. Jowett, Esq., and has passed through numerous tenancies, including those of Matthew Bailey, Wm. and Joseph Craven, G. T. Lister, and Edward Bilton. Mr. Macfarlane had also a boarding-school in one portion for some time. At Chellow a branch of the Bolling family resided for centuries. Over the door of a farm-house since pulled down there were the initials and figures—I. B., 1720.

Sandy Lane Bottom is another outlying part of Heaton, adjoining to Allerton. Fifty years ago it consisted of only half-a-dozen houses, dotted about on the roads leading to Cottingley, Heaton, Allerton and Wilsden. The population has of late years much increased, owing to the erection of a worsted factory by Mr. Charles Sowden, and fresh dwellings are still being added. A chapel belonging to the General Baptists has existed here since 1824. The chapel was to cost £700, exclusive of the land, which was given by Mr. John Mortimer, and £5 was the largest subscription forthcoming towards this sum. The total sum raised when the chapel was opened was £70. The debt of £630 was finally removed in 1863, and in the same year a school was erected at a cost of £700. It is also free of debt. Meantime, a minister's

house had been purchased, and very considerable alterations effected in modernising the interior arrangements of the chapel. During the fifty years there have been several ministers, two of them, the Rev. J. Ingham, and the Rev. J. Taylor, now of Denholme, having held the pastorate for fourteen and thirteen years respectively.

The Baptist Society is the oldest religious organisation in this ancient village, and one of the oldest in the West Riding. Above 150 years ago a chapel or meeting-house existed at Heaton, the situation of which was long known as Chapel Fold. This meeting-house was, however, pulled down about eighty years ago. The chapel-yard was long after occupied as a garden by John Gott, who not unfrequently turned up coffin tires and other evidences that man "cometh forth as a flower and is cut down; he fleeth as a shadow and continueth not." All traces of this quiet resting-place have now been swept away, as an immense quarry was opened on the spot about three years ago. According to tradition the baptisms took place in the brook near the spring in the wood through which the road to Heaton Royds passes. The records being lost, much is left for conjecture as to the origin and date of the old Baptist society of Heaton. It appears certain, however, that the Revs. David Crossley and William Mitchell, and especially the latter (who was the honoured instrument of introducing the Baptist cause into the west of Yorkshire), were the principal promoters. Mr. Mitchell was twice apprehended under the Conventicle Act, first at Goodshaw Chapel, where he was treated with the utmost rudeness. The second time he was taken "near Bradford," doubtless at Heaton, from whence he was carried prisoner to York Castle, where he lay till released through the influence of Walter Calverley, Esq., a few days before the liberty granted by King James was proclaimed. After some years' itinerancy, during which he regularly visited and "broke bread" to the little societies under his charge, which included Heaton, Rawdon, and other places, Mr. Mitchell took up his abode at Rawdon, where he died in 1705. David Crossley, who also visited Heaton, was one of the most popular of the Calvinistic Baptists, and was acquainted with both John Bunyan and George Whitfield. He died in 1744. The Church in Rossendale, being the nearest and strongest constituted Baptist society, took under its protection several smaller communities, the members whereof were included within its church-roll, and were visited by Mitchell, Crossley, and others. Among the number was the Rev. John Moore, who afterwards became a popular preacher and pastor of the church at Northampton. We have before us a printed sermon preached by him in the old meeting-house at Heaton, in the year 1711, entitled "Christ, the Mediator," which

would apparently have taken two hours in delivery. In the year 1715, on account of its having gathered strength in a greater degree than other societies in this part, the Baptist church at Rawdon was formed, having three branches, namely, Heaton, Gildersome, and Hartwith in Nidderdale, the members in these places, like those at Rawdon, receiving their "dismissal" from the Church in Rossendale. These branches continued united for many years, and were supplied with preachers from the parent church at Rawdon. The Rev. Alvery Jackson, a man afterwards of considerable eminence in the ministry, was received into the church at Heaton in 1715. He was the pastor at Barnoldswick for forty-seven years.

The history of the Heaton society remains in obscurity during the first half of the last century. Doubtless it was a period of great struggling and opposition, ending, it would appear, in the disbandment of the church as a constituted body. In 1751, several persons met in the house of Elizabeth Frankland, at Manningham, and invited Mr. Smith, of Wainsgate, near Halifax, Mr. Hartley, of Haworth, and Mr. Lord, of Bacup, to visit them quarterly, which resulted, two years after, in a "call" being given to Wm. Crabtree, then a young man connected with the Wainsgate Church. On December 4th, 1753, the Baptist church at Bradford was formed, and Mr. Crabtree was ordained as its first pastor. Of the few names of early members which have been preserved, several belonged to Heaton. In time, however, the people of Westgate gave a helping hand towards the resuscitation of the Baptist interest at Heaton, and the present chapel was erected in 1824, at a cost of £700. For many years the church had not much vitality, and in 1840 it was dissolved, the remaining members being received into fellowship with Westgate. In March, 1862, the Heaton church was again re-formed, thirty members being drafted from Westgate. The church has only had one stated minister since, viz., Mr. George Brockway, who officiated from 1865 to 1872. Notwithstanding this, the church and Sunday school are now vigorous and increasing, owing, doubtless, to the increased growth of the village. In July, 1873, a new school-room was opened, which has already proved of great service in the village. It is a plain but substantial structure, and is erected in proximity to the burial-ground of the Baptist Chapel. The total cost of the school, including the site, was about £1600. It is now in contemplation either to enlarge and improve the present chapel, or to take it down and erect a new building, in anticipation of the certain and almost immediate growth of the village.

The Church of St. Barnabas at Heaton was built in 1863. The site is undoubtedly the most commanding in the neighbourhood, and

was the gift of the Earl of Rosse. The church consists of nave, south aisle and chancel, with semi-circular apse and organ chamber ; tower and spire. The style of architecture is French-Gothic of the early part of the 13th century. The cost of the church was about £2800. In addition to the gift of the site, the Earl of Rosse contributed £200, but the principal contributor was Mr. Benj. Wood, of Frizinghall, who, at a cost of £600, erected the tower and spire, besides giving generous co-operation in other ways. A large parsonage house was also built on adjoining ground at a cost of £1100. The ecclesiastical district comprises Heaton and Frizinghall, and the patronage is in the hands of five local trustees. The Rev. H. A. Mitton, who for several years acted as curate in the district, received the first appointment of incumbent, and laboured with considerable success until 1868, when he was made vicar of Bishop Auckland. The manner in which he received this appointment was somewhat remarkable. On one Sunday morning when Mr. Mitton conducted the service in Heaton Church, a strange, elderly gentleman took a back seat in the church and remained to the close. After the congregation had dispersed he made his way to the parsonage adjoining, and inquired for Mr. Mitton. With little ceremony the old gentleman informed the young clergyman that he was the Bishop of Durham, and had formed one of his morning congregation. Having the vacant vicarage of Bishop Auckland at his disposal, he had heard of the zeal of Mr. Mitton, and thereupon offered him the living. An offer so graciously made was, of course, in due time as graciously accepted. The Rev. Thos. Miller shortly afterwards became incumbent of Heaton. The National Schools were opened in 1871, upon a site close to the church, which was presented by the Countess of Rosse.

The first Sunday school in Heaton was established by Mr. Richard Walker, saddler, of Darley Street, Bradford, and a few Wesleyan friends, about the year 1813. Samuel Broadley, a handloom weaver, residing in Paradise Row, allowed them the use of his chamber for a school-room, and in this not very commodious place the school was carried on for a number of years. About the year 1814, Joshua Field, Esq., of Heaton Hall, commenced building a day school at Paradise, but the works were delayed in their progress, and the building was not completed till about the year 1817. Mr. Walker and his Wesleyan friends applied to Mr. Field for and obtained his consent to use the building for a Sunday school and an occasional preaching-room. Here for nearly twenty years Mr. Walker carried on his educational labours at an exceedingly small cost, but with extraordinary success. He seldom resorted to collections, but

exercised the greatest vigilance over his charge, and repaired with his own hands the bindings of all the books used in the school. He was a skilful, diligent, and vigorous teacher, and gained the confidence of his pupils by his evident regard for their welfare. Regardless of the weather he was regularly and punctually at school every Sunday morning, imparting, with a smiling countenance, as much knowledge to his pupils as their capacities were capable of imbibing, and never failed in urging them to "do unto others as they would that others should do unto them." About the year 1840 the old school-room was claimed by and handed over to the Church party, and after giving up possession the Wesleyans resumed their services in a cottage until 1846, when their present chapel was built. At that time Heaton was included in the Bradford West Circuit, but latterly it has formed part of the Manningham Circuit. The subsequent history of the Wesleyan Chapel has not been encouraging, and little headway has been made.

The Mechanics' Institute, established in 1836, was held in the old school-room for many years, but had only a struggling existence. It is now located in the new Baptist school-room, and of late has improved its position considerably.

The healthiness of Heaton has often been matter of comment. There is a saying there that its inhabitants may "live as long as they like," and from the large proportion of old people to be found, it might seem that there is some truth in the saying. An interesting gathering which took place in May, 1868, of all the old people above seventy years then living at Heaton will not soon be forgotten. On that occasion fifty-three persons, male and female, were assembled and feasted, the average age of the whole being nearly seventy-eight years. Among them were three persons named Stead residing in one house, whose united ages summed up to 238 years, one of them being a *lad*, aged seventy-six. Four of the offspring of Betty Clark averaged above eighty years! The number of persons of the same name at Heaton is remarkable. Of the Greenwoods, for instance, there are five distinct families, of which (although doubtless springing from the same stock) the relationship is now lost. They were mostly hand-loom weavers, and to distinguish the several members such cognomens as Joseph at t'Lillams, Jim at t'Steps, and Jonas at Whitleys are adopted, while another would have to be inquired for as "Dan lad." The Broadleys have been a numerous family, their favourite name being Isaac. Thus we have Sally Isaac, Sammy Isaac, &c. Old Isaac Broadley died in 1848, aged ninety-two, and Joseph Broadley died in 1870, aged eighty-eight. The Firths were a strong, hardy family,

generally living to a long age. Michael of the Royds lived to eighty-eight; his grandsons, Abraham and Nathan, are each hale and hearty at seventy-nine and seventy-seven respectively, and another brother is over seventy. The Clarks were big, strong men, as were also the Lamberts and Baileys. The former were principally engaged in the stone and building trade. The Murgatroyds were a well-known and respected family, and were engaged in the shuttle and loom-gearing trade for hand-loom weaving. The Crabtree family are of long standing in Heaton, and have for generations been prominent in town's business. The Cravens, although not now numerous, have been long associated with Heaton, and, like others previously mentioned, they were strong, burly men. Old James Craven, of North Hall, was, before power-looms were introduced, a considerable manufacturer, employing many hand-loom weavers in the neighbourhood. He also ran a mill at Otley for spinning. The old man's endeavours, however, were not supported by his sons, and the business fell to naught.

Farming having been hitherto the principal occupation, father and son have succeeded each other, as is usually the case. Before the power-loom era many of the inhabitants wove dobbies, camlets, and other heavy goods for either James Craven or James and afterwards Joseph Hargreaves, of Frizinghall. Stone has been quarried in the township for above a hundred years, and the immense deposits of refuse stone are visible in several places, which have been in existence longer than within living recollection. Mr. Abraham Hill, of Ashwell, did a large business in stone quarrying some years ago, and opened up the way for others. Of late years the trade has been much developed, and considerable improvements have been introduced into the methods of getting the stone. By the use of the steam crane the phrase "Jerry buryin'," once in common use among quarrymen, has been done away with. This phrase was applied to the custom of carrying large landings on men's backs, a practice often resulting disastrously. Pits for getting coal have also been long worked at North Cliff Wood and Heaton Moor.

Frizinghall, the largest of the outlying hamlets of the township of Heaton, is mentioned as belonging to Robert de Everingham, lord of the manor of Heaton, in the year 1287. It has been well established that the inhabitants of Bradford were employed in those early times in the manufacture of woollen cloth, and there is therefore strong probability that Frizinghall took its name from the coarse cloth called "frieze," which was made in that hamlet. The village has a very rural appearance, and is graced with several clumps of large and handsome trees.

It is also intersected by the old Bradford and Otley Road, at one time of greater importance than now. Considerable alteration has, however, been made in the direction of this road within the past sixty years. Formerly it left Low Lane, now Manningham Lane, a little past the Spotted House Inn, and crossed the upper portion of the Clockhouse grounds. The continuation of Manningham Lane to Shipley was then unmade, and Manningham Park was a series of fields divided by thorn hedging. Isolated tufts of this hawthorn, some of the trees being of large size, now remain. The old Frizing-hall, standing on a little knoll and surrounded by some grand old trees, is now occupied by Mr. Benj. Wood, the manufacturing "squire" of the village. The property, however, belongs to the Marriner family, of Keighley. Captain Lister (not of the Manningham Listers) formerly owned this old hall, and lived here. His daughter Clarissa married David Spencer, of Keighley, and a daughter of theirs married Benjamin Marriner, of the same place, whose family has thus inherited a considerable estate at Heaton and Frizinghall. Another old homestead adjoining, enclosed in its own grounds, was for some time the residence of a most exemplary Quaker family, named Wilson, originally of Esholt. The father of this family was an American cloth merchant, whose commercial disasters, owing to the American war, so preyed upon his spirits, as to bring him down "with sorrow to the grave." It should be mentioned, however, that his children, who all acquired a considerable competence by business, honourably discharged every farthing of their parent's debts. One of the members of this interesting family, named William or Willie Wilson, enjoyed a reputation throughout the entire kingdom for his many eminent qualities as a philanthropist. He was born in 1767, and, having first been apprenticed to a grocer at York, commenced business as a grocer and draper in the shops afterwards occupied by Mr. Armitage, Market Street, and Mr. M'Croben, Kirkgate, Bradford. He carried on a lucrative business for some years, and having also embarked some of his capital in a wholesale stuff department, he was able to retire at fifty years of age with a fortune of many thousand pounds. He afterwards lived at the top of Westgate, in the house now occupied by Mr. George Poole, then possessing a pretty garden before the door. Of Mr. Wilson it might truly be said that he

"Did good by stealth, and blushed to find it fame."

For more than thirty years of his after life it became his exclusive business to discover and relieve cases of poverty and distress, not only in Bradford, but in the surrounding villages and in distant towns.

It has been estimated that he distributed in this manner the sum of forty thousand pounds. Mr. Wilson was a great friend of temperance societies throughout the country, and held the offices of secretary, treasurer, and president of the Bradford Temperance Society, the first established in England. Of tracts he printed and distributed millions. It was expected that he would dispose of nearly all his property, and in fact he only left a sum of £2700, which, as he was a bachelor, he divided among various charities. He died in November, 1849, in the 83rd year of his age, and his remains were interred in the Friends' burial-ground, Bradford. Another old place at Frizinghall has latterly been known as the Old Castle, but there is nothing castellated about it. It is a lumberly old farmhouse, brought into some note during the tenancy of old James Hargreaves, and afterwards of Joseph Hargreaves, of Shipley Fields. The Swan Inn is of ancient standing, and was formerly kept by Mally Rhodes, who had also an extensive business as "middiff." A little higher up the road Beanlands, the smiths, opened a new public-house, but on the erection of the Turf Tavern the licence was removed thence.

Within present recollection cloth has been made in the hamlet by Robert Hargreaves and James Driver. Tenter-croft is still called by that name. Frizinghall Mill was originally used for cloth and corn, Robert Hargreaves occupying it up to the time of the disastrous fire there in 1818. On being rebuilt it was taken by William and Joseph Hargreaves for worsted spinning. John and Jonas Fox occupied the corn mill. Mr. John Exley some years ago bought the property of the Canal Company for a worsted mill. Dumb Mill (we can offer no explanation of the name) was also a corn mill originally, it having been occupied as such above a hundred years ago. In 1762 Benjamin Spence was the miller, and he was succeeded by Joseph Spencer and John Fox. Joseph Wood, who lived at the old house at Shipley Fields, and was a small clothmaker, afterwards bought it, and built the present worsted mill. He had for a partner Mary, sister of Mr. Joseph Hargreaves, but she afterwards carried on the worsted trade alone at Mill House. Miss Hargreaves was a famous business woman. When Joseph Wood died, his three sons, Joseph, Benjamin, and James, carried on Dumb Mill, and under the present title of "Benjamin Wood & Co." the premises have grown to large dimensions. Mr. Joseph and Mr. James Wood retired some years ago, and the latter lives at the new and substantial house fronting to Frizinghall station.

The Wesleyans possess a handsome place of worship in Frizinghall, and, as a denomination, are of some standing in the village. About fifty years ago a few persons commenced preachings in the house of

Mr. Henry Clough, and afterwards in a cottage which stood on Swan Hill. In course of time the old school was built, the chief promoter being Mr. James Ambler, father of Mr. Thomas Ambler. This little school-room served its purpose for nearly forty years, but owing to the great increase of houses in the neighbourhood, a new chapel was determined upon, and the present handsome chapel of Gothic design was built, at a cost, including £350 for the land, of about £3100, towards which £2000 had been received previous to the opening. Of this amount Mr. Geo. Hargreaves contributed £500. The chapel is clear of debt. A Church mission-room was opened at Frizinghall in 1875, erected at a cost of £1800 by Mr. Benjamin Wood, manufacturer; accommodation, 330.

A remarkable illustration of the rapidity with which Bradford is overgrowing its borders is furnished by the constant extension of building operations in the neighbourhood of Frizinghall—forming what in no long period of time will be the connecting link between Bradford and Shipley. Up to the present time the most substantial chain in this link is the opening up of the valuable property known as the Shipley Fields Estate for building purposes. The Shipley Fields Estate was part of the old family property of the Listers, and was purchased from Mr. T. T. Lister by numerous speculators for the erection of a superior class of dwellings, which have been taken up as separate freeholds on the “building club” principle. The facilities of access were largely increased by the opening of Frizinghall Station in February, 1875.

There are few suburbs of the town of Bradford which present a more striking extent of progress at the present time, as compared with a century ago, than the township of Shipley. Even sixty years since Shipley was a little out-of-the-way place, seldom heard of away from its immediate locality, and consisting of scattered cottages, many of them straw-thatched, a number of farmhouses, two halls, and a manor-house. The working people were almost exclusively employed in the manufacture of cloth; many of the farmers were also clothmakers, and these, with the half-dozen little tradesmen, formed the well-to-do portion of the community. The village at that time was on the verge of an unenclosed moor, extending for two miles in a westerly direction. There are many persons living who gathered bilberries where the church now stands. The old Baptist Chapel was the only place of worship of any standing; the Methodist Chapel, a little building on the site of the present one, had not been long completed, and the only other public building was the one-storeyed town’s school. Including Saltaire, which has been built by Sir Titus Salt during the past twenty

years, the population of Shipley may now be estimated at 15,500. Its hives of industry consist of factories, warehouses, workshops, &c., in various kinds of trade ; and the streets, which have been built in almost every direction, contain well-furnished shops for the sale of goods of every description. The number of villa residences and other costly dwellings which have been built is truly astonishing. The opening of the Leeds and Bradford Railway in 1846, with a station at Shipley, and the continuation of the line to Keighley, Lancashire, and the North soon after, were events which much contributed to the above result, and betoken untold advantages for the future.

The town is beautifully situated at the junction of Bradford-dale with Airedale, having a good breadth of lowland watered by the river Aire, and a broad-shouldered background of elevated table-land, affording ample room for expansion. No finer position for commercial and residential purposes could well exist. The geological formation of the immediate district presents several interesting features, which may here be briefly summarised. The strata of the neighbourhood of Shipley belong to the Millstone Grit and the Lower Coal Measures. The millstone grit beds prevail towards Bingley, while the coal measures come on, one after another, in ascending order, as we proceed from Shipley to Laisterdyke. The rough rock, or the top bed of the millstone grit series, forms the once picturesque escarpment of Windhill Crag ; it is largely quarried near Shipley Station and in Nab Wood, while north of the Aire it is found in Fairbank Wood, and at a higher level on Gilstead Moor, Shipley Glen, Baildon Bank, and at the village of Baildon. This difference in level is occasioned by an important fault, which runs from near the Seven Arches westwards across the south side of Baildon Green to the entrance of Thackley Tunnel. The fault brings up the so-called "Third Grit" to the surface in Baildon Green, where it has long been quarried. The lowest of the coal measures are the Halifax hard and soft coals, which are much worked around Shipley. The hard bed may be seen in the excavation behind the Fire Clay Works at Windhill. It is worked also in Cliff Wood, at Cottingley, and on Baildon Hill. The flagstone, which lies above the Halifax coals, is generally divisible in this district into two beds, of which the lower is called the sixty yards rock or quarell stone. It occupies the upper part of Wrose Hill, and ranges thence to Idle. It is found in Bolton Wood, and is largely worked about Eccleshill and Spinkwell. West of the Bradford Beck the flagstone has a great extension about Heaton and Chellow Heights. Beds of calliard, above and below the hard bed coal, are sometimes worked for stone, and the rounded pebbles of this rock, which is often extremely hard, are widely

scattered over the face of the country, chiefly by glacial agents. They are in many places the common walling material. Riverdrift, a thing of yesterday in comparison with the old rocks of which we have been speaking, occupies the floor of the river Aire and of the Bradford Beck. Its extent is roughly indicated by the flat tract through which the stream makes its way. To explain, even roughly, the geological history of the district, and to show how the rocks came into their present position, is quite impossible here. The subject is, however, of great interest, and may be pursued with profit.

The history of such a town as Shipley would not, however brief, be complete without extracts being made from the musty records of the past. No apology is therefore needed for the fragmentary items which follow. Shipley is a township in the parish of Bradford and union of North Bierley, and includes the hamlets of Moorhead, part of Heaton Royds, Shipley Fields, and Saltaire. Ecclesiastically it is in the deanery of Bradford and diocese of Ripon. Availing ourselves of the researches made by Mr. John James, we find that the manor of Shipley became, at the Conquest, the property of Ilbert de Lacy, but afterwards reverted to the Crown. This was in the time of Edward I., who, before his father's death, joined the crusade of St. Louis in the Holy Land. The interest taken by Edward in the Holy War and its champions may have had something to do with the fact that Nicholas de Marays, a superior of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, had lands granted to him before 1287, and in 1316 he is returned as lord of the manor. The knights of St. John held fees of lands in Shipley for some hundreds of years after the latter date, as we find their "mark" (a curiously-wrought lantern in stone) surmounting the old building, dated 1593, opposite the Rosse Street Baptist Chapel. The Gascoignes, however, were lords of the manor of Shipley from 1422 until the reign of Elizabeth, when in 1570 William Rawson, of Bradford, acquired the manor by marriage with the daughter and heiress of William Gascoigne, of Shipley, who, according to Peacock, was a noted "recusant," and a "nourisher and mayntayner of recusants." This William Rawson was the oldest son of his father William, who lived in 1549, and was the progenitor of the Rawsons, lords of the manor of Bradford. The last of the Rawsons died in 1745, without issue, and the Shipley manor and estates were left to his wife, who for her second husband married Cyril Jackson, M.D. of Stamford, who was thus lord of Shipley in right of his wife. He was succeeded by his son Cyril, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, and Preceptor to George IV. The devisees of Dean Jackson sold the manor for £24,000 to John Wilmer Field, Esq., of Heaton Hall, one of whose daughters married in 1836 Lord Oxmantown, after-

wards Earl of Rosse. Since the earl's death in 1867 the manor has vested in the Countess of Rosse, his widow.

The existing records of town's affairs from 1600 to 1800 are few and simple. There were then no clerks of local boards to make voluminous "minutes," and such as were made are often scarcely intelligible without a knowledge of other particulars which do not appear. We have, however, met with the following document, which is transcribed *verbatim*, as it was no doubt a correct estimate of the assessable value of the township in 1688, with the names of the owners and occupiers :—

"We, the inhabitants and freeholders of the towne of Shipley, being mett together the 19 day of October, 1688, do as formerly estimate the lands and mills within the said townshipp of Shipley to ffourty-six oxgangs of land, and the said lands shall always be so rated in the constable's assessment, according to the several pporcons in the pysent possessions of the sevrall ffreeholders and inhabitants of the said towne here undermentioned :—

	s.	d.
Mr. Wm. Rawson, 2 oxgangs and one-third	3	6
And for Mr. Hawson land, 1 oxg. ...	1	6
Mr. Joseph Drake, 1 oxg. one-third	2	0
Hugh Baldwin, 1 oxg. one-third and 1-12th	2	1½
Timothy Dixon, 1 oxg. one-third and 1-12th	2	1½
John Ffield, 2 oxg. one-third	3	6
Thomas Booth, New Close, 5 oxg. 1 qr. ...	7	10½
John Lyster, 1 oxg. one-third	2	0
Robert Hudson, two-thirds oxg. ...	1	0
Dixon lands and mills, 5 oxg. one-third	8	0
Miles Rysworth for Rawson Mill, 1 oxg. ...	1	6
William Field, 2 oxg. half and qr. ...	4	1½
Jo. Pickard, 1 oxg. ...	1	6
Thos. Brook for Wm. Pickard land, half oxg. ...	0	9
Mr. Richard Hawson, 1 oxg. 1 qr. ...	1	10½
Jeremy Dixon, 1 oxg. 3 qr. ...	2	7½
John Dixon, 1 oxg. 1 qr. ...	1	10½
Edwd. Brooksbank, 2 oxg. and half	3	9
John Brooksbank, 3 oxg. 2-3rds and 1-6th	4	3
John Pickard, 1 oxg. ...	1	6
James Booth, 1 oxg. and qr. ...	1	10½
John Holdsworth, 1 oxg. ...	1	6
Mr. Richard Tempest, one-sixth oxg. ...	0	3
Wm. Oates, 1 oxg. 1 qr. ...	1	10½
John Goldsbrough, 1 half oxg. ...	0	9
Bryan Lyster for the Nabb, one-third oxg. ...	0	6
Michael Maude for the Hurst Ing, one-third	0	6
Occupiers of Coates land, one-third	0	6
Peter Pickard, one-twelfth oxg. ...	0	1½
Wm. Taylor, 1 qr. oxg. ...	0	4½

	s.	d.
John Hudson, 1 oxg.	1	6
George Pickard, one-third	0	6
Jonathan Ryshworth, 1 qr.	0	4½
Jeremy Pickard, 1 half oxg.	0	9
Bryan Lyster, for own land, one-sixth	0	3"

The total assessable value of the forty-six oxgangs and mills, on the basis of 1s. 6d. per oxgang, was £3 9s. An oxgang was as much land as an ox could plough in a year, probably about twelve acres. According to the above document, Dixon Mill was then in existence, and with the adjoining lands paid the largest assessment. New Close comes next, paying 7s. 10½d. for five oxgangs. Rawson Mill we have been unable to trace. Joseph Drake was constable, and James Booth overseer during 1688. In Sir John Maynard's valuation of the tythes of Bradford Church made in 1638, the following paragraph appears :—

"In Shipley the tenants plead prescriptive rights, paying neither tythe corn nor hay ; but some composition at Easter. One farm called New Close, belonging to Thos. Ellison, of Cullingworth, payd neither corn nor hay nor anything in lieu. Now to pay no tythe is contrary to the law of nature and of God."

The first churchwarden's accounts we find were for 1704, when Jasper Pickard received £13 11s. ; paid three lays for (Bradford) Church, £12 16s. ; leaving 15s., which it is agreed "to allow him for his trouble ; soe nothing owing."

In an old Shipley town's book, for the year 1709, we meet with the following curious item :—

"We whose names are undersigned, being freeholders of the township of Shipley, and owners of cottages, do hereby agree that we will not let any of them without the good will or major consent of the freeholders, and likewise will not build any new cottages or convert any houses into cottages without the like consent."

The names that follow are those of Jeremy Dixon, John Cliffe, Chris. Musgrave, Chris. Dibb (his mark), Isaac Hollings, Joseph Field, Richard Thompson, Jasper Pickard (his mark), Marmaduke Raynard, John Brooksbank, Jonathan Hargreaves, Timothy Dixon, &c. The above may be taken as the principal owners of property at that period. This curious memorandum reads strangely in the light of the present day. The primary object endeavoured to be effected was no doubt the keeping of poor persons from becoming a "burden" on the town. About the same period the following scale of allowances was agreed to be made to "such officers or other persons who transacted town's affairs :"—For a man and horse to Wakefield, 1s. 6d. ; man and horse to Pontefract, 3s. ; to Halifax, 1s. ; to Bradford, 6d. ; to Wisket Hill Court, 1s. 6d. Shipley was at that time still held of the Crown as parcel of the Honour of Pontefract, and the court-leet was held at

Adwalton or Atherton. To this court the constable was required to summon all the King's tenants and such freeholders as were required to do "suit, service, and fealty."

Passing on twenty years, we find the constable's and highway surveyor's accounts about the same, they having "received and disbursed" £6 or £7 for the year. The accounts of the poor, however, had risen greatly, notwithstanding the compact entered into by the property owners. In 1755 Will. Thornton, the highway surveyor, furnished details of a year's expenditure of £28, in which we find items as follows:—To bringing the water down to Shipley, £3 3s. ; paid Chris. Dibb for ale for 1754, 15s. 1½d. ; paid towards building Baildon bridge, £20 4s. 6d. Other items following were:—Stairfoot Road, £7 5s. (this was the old road to Bingley) ; mending Hall Well, 8d. ; received for Hirst Wood, £10 ; two coffins, 4s. ; four hens and a chicken of Sarah Brogden, 2s. 6d. ; rent of Stairfoot Farm, £10. This farm of sixteen acres still belongs to the overseers, and is now let for £35, which is applied in reduction of the poor-rate. Among those prominent in town's business one hundred years ago were the following:—William Booth, Joshua Crabtree, John Maude, John Brogden, David Denbigh, Chris. Dibb, John Dibb, Thomas Ledgard, &c. After 1800 the various amounts raised were much higher. In 1819 three poor's rates were laid at 2s. each (or equal to 6s. in the pound), which amounted to £600 12s. [The present amount of the poor rates is 2s. in the pound.] About 1820 the town's accounts were attested by George Semple, Jonas Bradley, Thomas Bishell, John Hainsworth, Samuel Atkinson, Joshua Denbigh, James Booth, Henry Pickles, &c. Such names as George Thompson Lister, Richard B. Wainman, William Denby, sen., William Denby, jun., Samuel Denby, David Lee, Thomas Speight, Joseph Glover, Joshua Goldsbrough, and later still those of James Hepper, John Rhodes, Thomas Scott, William Spurr, Jesse Cockshott, and John Ives, appear.

So recently as 1815 there were not less than 278 acres of land in Shipley which were waste or common lands. In that year the Rev. Cyril Jackson, D.D., lord of the manor of Shipley, procured the passing of an Act for enclosing the common lands amongst the various freeholders of the township, the largest of whom were the Wainman family. The enclosed lands were situated on the Low Moor and High Moor. Little of this common would now be recognised. The Low Moor commenced at a point near where the Junction Inn now stands, and took an upward direction along the high side of the Shipley and Bingley Road (now Saltaire Road) as far as Nabl Gate. The High Moor, as its name implies, included the uplands so beautifully situated

to the left of the Bradford and Keighley Road. In the award made by Mr. Bower, the commissioner, one acre of the common was allotted at Crowgill, near the present Church Schools, to the town's surveyors, from which stone might be got for building fences, &c. Two plots of 1a. 1r. 13p. each were also allotted at Crowgill to the overseers and churchwardens for common rights. The lord of the manor, Mr. John W. Field, as purchaser from the devisee of Dr. Cyril Jackson, got about eighty-eight acres, including a number of acres for manorial rights. The Wainman family, as the largest freeholders, were allotted forty acres, and Mr. E. C. Lister thirty-five acres. The other principal freeholders to whom larger or smaller allotments were made were Mr. William Denby, the Rev. Jeremiah Dixon, &c.

The facts and figures given above relate entirely to Shipley while yet a village, and before any bold move had been made to take advantage of its admirable situation and commercial prospects. The entire township in 1801 contained about 1400 souls. In thirty years' time it had only increased 500, or to 1926; and in 1851 the inhabitants numbered but 3272 and the dwelling-houses 680. From 1851 to 1861 the population had increased from 3272 to 7098, or more than doubled, owing to the development of Saltaire. According to the present estimate (15,500) it will be seen that the population has again doubled itself since the census of 1861. The increase in the rateable value may be taken as another practical indication of the growing prosperity of the town. In 1815 the amount of property assessable in Shipley was £3527; in 1850 it was £8727; in 1854, £13,856; in 1861, £17,959; in 1871, £32,902; while at the present time it is £45,500.

In 1852 an inquiry was held by Mr. Ranger, Government inspector, in consequence of a memorial signed by one-fifth of the ratepayers, who were anxious for the establishment of a Local Board. The adoption of the Public Health Act in February, 1853, may be said to have been the immediate result of the inquiry held by Mr. Ranger, who strongly recommended such a course being adopted. The first Local Board was elected on the 31st March, 1853, consisting of nine members, namely:—Messrs Thomas Crabtree (chairman), Jesse Cockshott, John Cockshott, William Denby, John Denby, William Hargreaves, John Rhodes, William Wright, and Thomas Aked; with Mr. Jo: Thompson, solicitor, as clerk. One of the first steps taken was the procuring of a special Act of Parliament, which received the Royal assent in July, 1854, by which provision was made for supplying the Shipley district with water, and also the neighbouring township of Windhill. Under the Act powers were taken to establish separate police under a board of commissioners, and the provision was

to extend to Windhill ; powers were also granted to the Shipley Board to borrow £14,000 for water purposes, and to Windhill powers for the same object amounting to £2350. Windhill has continued to take water from Shipley since the year 1858. A staff of local police, consisting of a sergeant and five men, was kept up at Shipley until the establishment of the county police under Colonel Cobbe in 1857.

The first waterworks scheme of the Shipley Board, under the powers obtained by the Public Health Act, comprised the making of a storage reservoir of seven acres on the Eldwick Beck, having a water capacity of 22,000,000 gallons, and a service reservoir in West Lane, Baildon. A second service reservoir was also constructed adjoining the latter in 1866. The principal source on which the water supply of the future will depend is the large reservoir now constructing by the Local Board at Graincliff, on the Eldwick Beck, three-and-a-half miles north-west of Shipley, and which it is expected will be completed during the present year. This reservoir is situated about half-a-mile above the present Eldwick reservoir, which it is intended to supplement. The area of this new water-store is twenty-six acres, and its capacity will be about 85,000,000 gallons. The cost will be about £40,000, including £2500 paid for the land.

Several Provisional Orders have been obtained since 1854 for sewerage and waterworks purposes, for which borrowing powers amounting to £76,646 were granted. By an order, dated April 22nd, 1872, the number of members comprising the Local Board was increased to twelve. In the year 1874, an Act was obtained to widen the streets of the town ; to extend the water supply to Baildon ; to provide parks or recreation grounds ; to acquire by purchase the two allotments belonging to the overseers and churchwardens at Crowgill and the Stairfoot Farm ; to purchase the minerals under land held or to be acquired by the Local Board ; to constitute the Local Board a Burial Board, &c. Borrowing powers under this Act were granted amounting to £100,000, to be repaid in annual instalments extending over fifty years, making a total amount for which the Local Board have taken powers to borrow since its establishment, of £176,000. Of this amount it is estimated that the Street Improvement scheme will cost £50,000.

The Board of Health rates for the past year were 2s. 4d. in the pound on property, and 7d. in the pound on land, estimated to realise £4526 10s. 4d. As before stated, the poor rate is 2s. in the pound, the net income from both rates being £9000. The members of the Local Board for the present year are Messrs. Charles Stead (chairman), Samuel Lupton, M. S. Rhodes, S. Barber, William Rhodes, W. Pitts,

F. Ives, T. Kendall, G. Hargreaves, J. Croft, M. Learoyd, and John Wilkinson. Mr. John Chambers is the clerk of the Board; surveyor, Mr. J. Bradley; sanitary inspector, Mr. T. R. Beckwith; and medical officer, Mr. W. H. Ellis. Mr. Wm. Booth has been for many years the assistant-overseer and registrar.

Closely associated with Shipley, as large landowners and as the owners of Shipley Hall (or as it is distinguished, the Low Hall), is the Wainman family. The last male head of this family was the late William Bradley Wainman, of Carrhead, in the parish of Kildwick, Esq., J.P. and D.L., who died very suddenly on the 17th January, 1872. Carrhead has always been the chief ancestral residence of the Wainman family. Mr. Wainman's name, "Bradley," comes from the maternal side, his ancestor, Richard Wainman, Esq., having, about the year 1740, intermarried with Elizabeth Bradley, whose grandmother was one of the two daughters of Edmund Laycock, Esq., the owner of a considerable part of the present Wainman estates in the year 1640. The connection of the Wainman family with the township of Shipley as landowners arises from the marriage of William Wainman, Esq., with Hannah, daughter of Wm. Rawson, Esq., a member of a family well known to all acquainted with the history of Bradford. A son of the above-named William Rawson, also named William, succeeded to part of the Shipley estate, which descended to his daughter Martha as heiress-at-law, who intermarried with William Thornton, of Shipley, Esq. By his will, dated 15th June, 1769, he devised such lands as he had purchased in the township of Shipley to his wife absolutely. Mrs. Thornton survived her husband, and by her will, dated 29th July, 1784, she devised all the property in Shipley to William Wainman, Esq., of Carrhead, son of Richard Wainman, Esq. One of the conditions of Mrs. Thornton's will was that Mr. Wainman should reside at Shipley Hall and make it his place of abode at all times during his life, and in default of his so doing the estate was devised over to his younger brother. The validity of this condition was doubted by Mr. Wainman. He was a member of the Bar, though he did not practise, and having numerous college friends who had also gone to the Bar, he consulted several of them (two of whom eventually rose to be Lord Chancellors of England). Acting on the advice given that the condition was not legal or binding upon him or the estate so devised, he continued to make Carrhead his chief residence. Mr. Wainman, by his will dated 24th March, 1814, settled all his estate in Yorkshire and Lancashire upon his son Richard Bradley Wainman, Esq., for life, then upon his grandson, the before-mentioned William Bradley Wainman, for his life, and then entailed it upon the issue of the grandson.

Richard Bradley Wainman was a colonel in the 4th Dragoon Guards, and lived at Shipley Hall previous to the death of his father. He married the widow of Sir Wharton Amcotts, Bart., of Kettlethorpe, in the county of Lincoln. At the time of this marriage Lady Amcotts had an only child, who was married in 1826 to the present Sir Mathew Wilson, Bart., M.P., of Eshton Hall, Gargrave. Richard Bradley Wainman, by his marriage with Lady Amcotts, had also an only child, namely, the said William Bradley Wainman, who, upon the death of his father, succeeded to the Wainman estate, and in the year 1836 married Maria Hotham, the head of whose family is now the present Lord Hotham. By this marriage the late Mr. Wainman had several sons and daughters, but none of the sons lived beyond infancy. Two of the daughters, however, survived that period, and are now living, and have become the owners of the Wainman estates under the entail created by the will of 1814 before mentioned. The elder daughter, Mary Amelia, was married—firstly, in the year 1862, to John Hall, Esq., who was the eldest and only surviving son of James Hall, Esq., now of Scarborough, near Beverley, the well-known master of the Holderness Hunt. By the death of Mr. John Hall, his only son, Ernest Richard Bradley, a minor, has become the successor to the considerable estates situate at Bishop Burton and elsewhere, formerly owned and placed in strict settlement by Richard Watt, Esq. In 1870 Mrs. Hall was married again to John Coulthurst, Esq., of Gargrave House, Gargrave. The late Mr. Wainman's second daughter, Edith, was married in 1874 to the Rev. Thomas Bryer Hinde, M.A., now of Thurland Castle, near Kirkby Lonsdale.

A good deal of the progress made in Shipley is due to the course taken by the late Mr. Wainman. He was tenant for life only of the Shipley estate, without power to sell any part of it. In 1856 he obtained a special Act, now well-known as "Wainman's Estate Act, 1856," enabling him to sell his Shipley estate (and many others), and under the powers of this Act Mr. Wainman proceeded to sell land for building purposes. Many of the handsome dwellings now erected at Shipley, and also at Saltaire, stand upon part of the Wainman estate. Mr. Wm. Cowgill succeeded as land agent in 1858, and under his management so much of the estate has been disposed of, that little remains unsold. From the proceeds Mr. Wainman was enabled to purchase a nice estate at Silton, in the North Riding.

Shipley Low Hall, the property of the Wainmans, is situated on the high ground above the railway station. We have not been able to fix the date of its erection, but that must have been long anterior to the connection of the Wainmans with it. There is an ancient

escutcheon on the older portion of the hall, which, although almost obliterated, shows the builder to have attained to the knightly office. The trunk of an old yew tree in the gardens, which is fully a yard in diameter, also bears silent testimony to the antiquity of the grounds. The Rawsons, previously mentioned, doubtless lived at it, probably before William Rawson built the Manor House named hereafter. William Thornton, Esq., whose widow left it to the Wainmans, was an enterprising man, and was the chief promoter of the turnpike road from Leeds to Bradford about 1770. This was before the introduction of toll-bars, which excited such great opposition, that a gate at Calverley Moor was destroyed by a furious mob, and Mr. Thornton's effigy was publicly burnt. During Mr. Thornton's residence a doorway in the garden wall led across the park to the old Baptist Chapel. A yawning railway cutting now renders this impracticable. Colonel Wainman, who lived some time at the Hall, was a fine gentleman, and kept up a good establishment. On his father's death the colonel went to reside at Carrhead, and his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Wainman, came to Shipley. The later representative of the family living at Carrhead, their Shipley residence has been occupied by several families. Lawyer Brogden lived there before his removal to the Manor Hall, in Kirkgate, Bradford. This popular family adviser was visited by most of the chief families of Bradford at that time, such as the Paleys, the Duffields, the Fields, &c., and a coach-and-four was then no unusual sight at Shipley. Both Mr. Brogden and his wife worshipped at the old Baptist Chapel, Shipley. Mr. Richard Fawcett, manufacturer, of Bradford, also lived at the Low Hall, and died there. Previous to the construction of the Leeds and Bradford line, in 1846, the grounds attached to the hall were very extensive and beautifully laid out. The park extended from the burial ground of the old Baptist Chapel to the valley road leading to Frizinghall and Bradford. Eastward the park took in the low ground down to the beck, while along the upper portion of the grounds nearest to Bradford Road there was a productive orchard and a belt of large trees, where the cawing rooks held undisturbed sway. On the making of the railway the grounds were bought of the Wainman family by the Midland Company, for £24,000, and they have since sold the Hall to Mr. Thomas Arton. The present occupier is Capt. Hodgson, who has much embellished the interior of the residence.

On the opposite side of the road, entering into Shipley from Bradford, there is a large mansion called Shipley House, which has the appearance of having been erected at the beginning of last century. Whilst Harewood House was building the noble family of Harewood resided here. The house was, until recently, the property of the

Walkers, who, although not residing in this district, had considerable possessions in Shipley, Baildon, and the neighbourhood. At the beginning of the present century the hall was occupied by Anthony Wrightson, Esq., "a fine old English gentleman, one of the olden time," whose favourite costume was a red coat, black "smalls," a cocked hat, and ruffles. He was succeeded in possession by the Rev. John Myers, commonly known as Justice Myers, who had married Wrightson's widow. Justice Myers was somewhat of a celebrity, and held several livings. According to report, the parson did not give his distant parishioners much opportunity of judging of his pulpit oratory. Justice Myers generally made short work of the cases brought before him, and was a great advocate of the "stocks," which stood conveniently near to his residence. On one occasion an alleged culprit named Johnny Lupton was brought before the justice, but as nothing could be proved against him, Johnny was only fined *half* the penalty, namely, 3s. ! Doctor Semple, another celebrity, also lived at this hall. He married Hannah, one of the nine daughters of Mr. Richard Bates, boat builder, of Junction House. The doctor was a Scotchman, and mixed much with the chief families in the neighbourhood. He was much esteemed by those requiring his services, but Shipley could only find work for one doctor in his day. Mr. William Brumfit, who learned his profession with Dr. Semple, succeeded to that gentleman's practice. Shipley House, with the estate, was about twenty years ago sold by the Walker family, and the hall and the adjoining land on which Hargreaves Square is built, were purchased by the late Mr. Joseph Hargreaves, of Shipley Fields. Soon after this the stabling and out-offices fronting to the Market Place were converted into shops. The hall is now jointly occupied by the Misses Hargreaves and Mr. John Pullan.

A fine old building, in the Elizabethan style, called the Old Hall, stands opposite the Rosse Street Chapel, an emblem of the substantial yeomen of old. Over the entrance are the initials I. D. A. D., for John and Anne Dixon, with the date 1593. This was the former residence of the Dixons, who, before their removal to Heaton Royds, lived at Shipley. John Dixon is mentioned in deeds dated 1608 as living at Shipley. John Brogden, a lawyer, lived here a hundred years ago, and had an office attached. He was father of the Lawyer Brogden who lived at Shipley Low Hall, and his name also appears as a pew-holder in the old Baptist Chapel. The Old Hall, with the land belonging to it, have long formed part of the Wainman estate, and one portion of it was the residence of the steward, William Rhodes, a man of some note in Shipley sixty years ago. The father of William

Rhodes was named James, who was a contractor for the making of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, and built the well-known aqueduct called the Seven Arches, at Dowley Gap. His son James also constructed the extensive artificial lake at Hollingworth, near Rochdale. James Rhodes acquired considerable property in Shipley, principally on the lower side of Briggate or Low Lane. So little land was available forty years ago, owing to the major portion being entailed, that Rhodes's land sold for a guinea a yard. William Rhodes, the steward, was also a farmer, and on his death at the Old Hall about 1835, his son John succeeded to the stewardship. Along with his father, he was lessee of the Bradford Canal, and was also widely known and esteemed as a gentleman farmer. He built the good house near the limekilns, but afterwards removed to the house now occupied by Mr. John Ives. It was mainly through Mr. Rhodes' endeavours that a Local Board was obtained for Shipley, of which he was for several years an active member; and he also took a leading part in the establishment of the gasworks. After the passing of the Poor Law Act he was the first elected guardian for Shipley, and filled that important office for several years. John Lee, one of the old race of clothmakers, lived in another portion of the Old Hall, and his son David—who "in his time played many parts," as constable, overseer, and general town's officer—was born and died in it, after a residence of over seventy years.

Another residence of such antique appearance as to entitle it to notice in this category is the Over Hall, or Manor House, at the upper corner of Hall Lane. This is a spacious building of the style prevalent in the time of Charles II., and has had extensive out-offices. It was built in 1673 by Wm. Rawson, then lord of the manor, and with the other manorial lands, passed into the possession of John Wilmer Field, Esq. There is a noble porch with the initials of William and Mary Rawson upon it. A very large farm was attached to this manor house, with gardens, orchard, and rookery. To this house still belongs the right of crossing the dam-stones at Baildon Bridge corn mill—a privilege which would no doubt be much esteemed before the stone bridge was built. This right was given to the lords of the manor for allowing the builders of the corn mill to lead stones from the Shipley side of the river. Two noted individuals, named Benjamin and John Rangdale, father and son, lived here, and farmed the land, which included the upper side of Church Lane and extended up to Shipley High Moor. This was the largest farm belonging to Dr. Jackson, when he was lord of the manor, and comprised 120 acres, the rental being about £100. The ancestor of the Rangdales fled

from France and settled at Baildon previous to coming to the Over Hall farm, Shipley. Both father and son afterwards removed to Cliffe Lane Bottom, Baildon, where John built Rangdale House. They were very rich, but from their homely style of living, few would have imagined that to be the case. John had three wives, but none of them had children. The Over Hall farm was subdivided after the Rangdales left it in 1817, when a portion was let to Jonas Bradley, and the remainder to Joshua Hainsworth and his son William. Jonas Bradley was a representative Shipley man, and filled all the town's offices. As a constable he was a "terror to evildoers." He was also the first churchwarden at Shipley Church. Many of the best houses in Shipley are now built upon the land once let with the Hall, Lady Rosse having disposed of it as freehold. Building operations are so extensive in this direction that it may well be entitled to the distinction of New Shipley.

There is another old house, now hid in the thickly-populated quarter called Hudson Fold, which has been of some pretension in its day. On the front of the building are the initials R. P., with the date 1629. Probably these initials refer to the Pickards, who were a very numerous family in Shipley at the time of its erection. Of recent times it is remembered as the residence of William Hudson, who owned and farmed the land leading to Redbeck, and was also a cloth-maker. It was then a pleasant locality, with little clusters of trees alone obstructing the view down to the valley. Benjamin Rangdale, nephew of Old Ben at Over Hall, occupied this old house for many years, and used the upper storey for cloth making, which business he learnt with Benjamin Bullack, of Heaton. He was heir to John of Rangdale House. More recently still the old house was occupied as a school by Mr. Bradley. The property now belongs to Mr. W. Thompson, of Bingley.

In next endeavouring to portray Shipley as it was early in the present century, we have to speak of the place before manufactures encroached upon its rural simplicity. The Bradford and Keighley Road was not made, nor the branch road from the Coach and Horses to the Oddfellows' Hall. Neither was the Shipley and Bramley Road, passing through Windhill, or the Otley Road, by way of Hollins Hill. The two streets of the town now called Church Lane and Westgate led on to the moor, and a gate stood just past the Over Hall, beyond which all was unenclosed land. Hall Lane was a narrow country lane leading to the Hall only. The "well" in Hall Lane was remarkable for the purity of its water. In the direction of Bradford, Shipley village extended no further than to "Loin End," where there were one or two old houses (now standing). A fine row of trees, called

"Crow Trees," made this a pleasant approach to the village. The principal houses were the old halls previously mentioned, which occupied the higher ground; while clusters of humbler dwellings, many of them straw-thatched, were scattered on the lower slopes down to the canal side. The village had its quota of "publics," namely, the Fleece, the Bull and Dog, and the Fox and Hounds, the latter alone still retaining its former position and name. What has now aspired to the title of market-place was the lounge of the village—the forum, where everybody tried everybody else, and generally found them guilty, and here might be seen any evening the bone and sinew of old Shipley. Shipley has been famous for its strapping young fellows—as the Denbys, Hodgsons, Rhodeses, Lees, and many others—who gathered here dressed in yellow-topped boots, which seem to have been considered the "correct thing" in those days. One old lady, the great-grandmother of some now living, used to boast of having fourteen yards of lads, she having seven sons, who, one with another, measured that length.

The higher portion of the Market Place was known as "Stocks Hill," where stood the "stocks," the remains of which may still be seen on Crowgill. The transition was easy from Justice Myers's to the "stocks." Stocks Hill was, of course, the mustering-place on all great occasions. There used to be famous doings here at election times. The Wainman family were strong Liberals, and many of the villagers being of the same colour, grand processions were formed which proceeded to York when the voting was taken at that city. Another celebrated event is also associated with Stocks Hill, the occasion being the proclamation of peace in 1815. A whole ox was roasted there, and the yeomen rode in grand procession, each assuming the name and character of one of the heroes of the war. There was such feasting and illumination and jollification as would put their degenerate townsmen to shame now-a-days. On Sunday mornings in the "olden time" (which in this case must be taken to mean less than fifty years ago), three burly men might have been seen looking round the corners on Stocks Hill. These were "ye churchwardens," and when good church people went *in* to service, they went *out* to catch any disreputable person who might be "moistening his clay" during prohibited hours. Armed with their wands of office this solemn trio made a round of the "publics," and (malicious people say), failing to catch delinquents, they were not hard to persuade to "tak' a drop" themselves!

The railway cutting through the lower portion of the Market Place has materially altered the appearance of the village. Projecting some distance towards Stocks Hill, and covering the ground occupied by the

shops on the higher side of Commercial Street, was an orchard, surrounded by a low wall, which was a constant source of anxiety to Billy Booth, the occupier. The Booths are an old Shipley family. William Booth was a clothmaker, and one of the founders of Providence Mill and the old Wesleyan Chapel. His son James was a grocer and stapler, and built a small worsted mill, which, like the old Fleece Inn, and one or two shops next to it, were cleared away by the railway cutting. Another William Booth lived at the ivy-covered house now occupied by Mr. William Spurr. He was a substantial yeoman, and was distinguished as "top o' t' taan Booith." Between his house and the orchard there were but a barn and one or two old buildings. One of these was furbished up by Samuel Atkinson, who got a licence for it, and named the new "public" the Sun. He afterwards erected the present fine building now bearing that name and occupied by his son, Mr. G. G. Atkinson. George Dibb, the butcher, had his shop in a little place nearer to Atkinson Street. Just beyond Atkinson Street, a few houses were afterwards built, in the upper room of one of which two "throstles" were set to work by James Long, these being the first machines in Shipley intended to supersede spinning by hand. On the lower side, fronting to Commercial Street, an adventurous man, named Thomas Cockshott, from Addingham, built a shop for the sale of drapery, which at that time was considered a rash speculation. No one thought it could ever pay. This has, however, for many years been the leading shop in the town, and for miles around "Cockshott's" has been a "household word." The business was afterwards successfully carried on by his sons, William and Jesse Cockshott, who during their lifetime were useful as well as enterprising townsmen. On the lower side of Commercial Street, where the good shops now stand, there was a maltkiln (occupied by Jonas Ellison, afterwards by Joseph Foster) and one or two low cottages; all below was open to the canal side. This was part of the Wainman property, and on the present shops being built by the late Mr. Wainman, so doubtful was it that they would ever succeed, that a passage entrance was made to each in order that they might be converted into dwellings. Where the handsome shops and offices just completed by Mr. Nathan Atkinson now stand, was located the old Horse Shoes Inn, some time before the present century. It was then as now the busy corner of Shipley, and an appropriate place for the village smithy, which stood there for perhaps a century. A famous family of blacksmiths and farriers are associated with this corner, namely, the Drakes. Old Sammy Drake long wielded the hammer, and his sons Joseph and James succeeded him. James is still "alive and hearty," in his eighty-ninth year, and one of

a little knot of old Shipleyites, the pride and glory of their neighbours. His father died in his eighty-sixth year, and his mother, Mercy Drake, lived into her 103rd year. The "old smithy" property belonged to Charles Dibb. At the opposite corner was the Fox and Hounds, kept by Nancy Roberts, who, believing in a division of labour, drafted her husband, Joshua, off to the neighbourhood of Silsden as a corn miller, and for years carried on the public-house at Shipley herself. Richard Greenwood, butcher, succeeded Nancy for a short time, and Caleb Pearson, who owned the house afterwards, altered it to its present shape, putting in the two fine "bow windows."

Passing on Commercial Street a little we come to the large house owned by Mr. John Ives, which is one of the few good specimens of the Middle Age of Shipley architecture. It is now much below the street level, the latter having been considerably raised on the construction of the railway. Mr. Ives is one of the (not few) Shipley men who have attained a good position by energy and perseverance. He is at the head of a large business as builder and contractor, and in that capacity built the Town Hall, Bradford, and many of the buildings at Saltaire and other places. He was for many years churchwarden, and afterwards a member of the new Local Board. Before the institution of the "new police," he was a zealous town's constable, as the "ne'er-do-weels" of Shipley knew to their cost. Near Mr. Ives' house is King Croft, a small piece of land out of which is paid 10s. a year for the preaching of a sermon in Bradford Parish Church. This was left by Nathan Dixon, who lived at the Old Hall. Continuing along Commercial Street, there were a few detached clothiers' houses on the higher side, one of them being Joseph Wade's, and a few straw-thatched cots on a corner of the moor at the foot of Crowgill. At Moor End there was another farmstead, the residence of the elder branch of the Atkinsons. Samuel Atkinson, brother of Nathan Atkinson, of Bolton, bought this estate at Moor End more than a hundred years ago. When the Leeds and Liverpool Canal was made, about 1770, part of his property was required for the new navigation. The only other farmstead in this direction was Hodgson's, afterwards occupied by Sammy Dibb, cattle dealer.

In Church Lane, formerly Moor Lane, we meet with an old part of Shipley. Some cottages called Club-houses, were built in "Spurr's Fold" by working men out of the first fruits of the beneficial change of the trade from woollen to worsted, and Wellcroft Mill (Messrs. Denby's) is close by. Near to "Hudson Fold" was the "bobbin-turner's shop," occupied by John and James Hainsworth, two well-known Shipley men. Close to Moor Lane once stood the College—not an

imposing academical structure, but a cobbler's shop, where the learned and the lazy assembled to kill time and have the news dispensed to them. In the days when the newsman passed up Airedale with his bundle of *Leeds Mercurys* and *Leeds Intelligencers*, at 7d. apiece, and made the return journey by way of Wharfedale, a rendezvous such as this was a convenience. The presiding cobbler was named Thomas Hudson, whose son John went into the Wesleyan ministry, and the cobbling business was continued by Tommy Gill. Moor Lane went no further than Crowgill, which apparently has taken its name from the rookery which existed there.

Briggate, or Low Lane as it was called, was, at the time of which we are writing, little built upon. Some old buildings stood near the top, to one of which the new Horse Shoes was removed, and was kept by James Illingworth; an adjoining barn was afterwards converted into a chapel for the Primitive Methodists. A field intervened between it and the old Whiting Mill, now the property of Mr. Bailey Blackburn. This little mill was built by Jonas Binns, and is noted as the first place in the neighbourhood where steam power was used for weaving. That was in 1822. The late Joshua Taylor was running the mill at the time, and his enterprise was then looked upon as likely to deprive all the poor people of their bread. It was bad enough to apply steam to spinning as he did, but when he got a loom made, and set it up in a small secret room to weave by steam, it could be endured no longer. A conclave of all the weavers of the neighbouring villages, Baildon, Windhill and Heaton, was held, a visit was paid to the mill, and the offending loom was smashed to pieces and the fragments carried in triumph through the streets! It is rather singular that his enterprising son, C. F. Taylor, had a riot on a similar scale many years afterwards at Baildon Bridge Mills, on the first introduction of the "two-loom system" into the neighbourhood. The Bull and Dog (now the Black Bull) has been rebuilt, and previous to that event Thomas Hudson kept it. James Dixon lived a long while at the Bull and Dog. He was also a wharfinger. There were three wharfs close by, which made the neighbourhood even then a somewhat busy quarter. James Hepper, a Leeds man, came to one of these wharfs about 1820, and did a good business. Joseph Glover, who also lived at Low Well, was a joiner and carrier, and his waggons conveyed most of the goods from the wharfs to Bradford before the railway was made. On the premises now occupied by Mr. Dobson, druggist, James Hall and Nanny his wife kept a shop, the first grocer's shop in Shipley. Both he and his wife were remarkable for their conscientious dealings and uprightness of character. On the opposite side were some old houses, David

Denbigh and Jeremiah White, the sizing boiler, living in them. John Ives, a noted auctioneer, lived down at Low Well. He was also a joiner, and the father of the present Mr. John Ives. Union Mill was not built until some time after by Messrs. Wilcock, Bradley, Denby and Peel, for the woollen trade. In those days, before the picturesque escarpments of Windhill and Wrose were so thickly peopled, before mills, gasworks, and railway embankments were thought of, it was pleasant living about Low Well. In Chapel Lane there were a few houses besides the chapel, one of which belonged to John Butterfield, the centenarian, who died at Saltaire in 1870 in his 105th year. The old man was very fond of children, he was very lively, and loved to recount the occurrences of his young days, and the names of persons he had known in Shipley and Windhill, of which latter place he was a native. He was also wonderfully active for his years, but as he used to remark, "sadly in want of some young legs." Originally he was a small clothmaker. In passing along Chapel Lane we notice the "lock-up," a modern successor to the "stocks," the site of which was given by Lord Oxmantown, the expense of erection being defrayed partly by the sale of coal belonging to the township and partly by subscription. It is dated 1839, Joseph Glover and Jesse Cockshott being then overseers, and Thomas Wilcock and Richard Fawcett churchwardens.

The enumeration given above comprised nearly the whole of the houses in Shipley at the period indicated, namely, about the beginning of the present century. A few outlying places may be noted in conjunction with more modern objects of interest. Providence Mill, on the Shipley side of Baildon Bridge, was built in 1796 by Samuel and William Denby, William Booth and John Lee, as a cloth scribbling mill. They also gave the ground for the Methodist chapel built a short time after. The old mill has long since served its day, and will shortly be removed in consequence of the widening of Baildon Bridge. Airedale Mills, the extensive manufacturing premises of Messrs. Hargreaves, were built in 1850 by the late Mr. Joseph Hargreaves, of Shipley Fields, to whom we shall have hereafter to refer. A little higher up the valley are Mr. Henry Mason's works, only recently completed. Mr. Mason had previously his premises at Bradford; his removal to Shipley has given another stimulus to its commercial prosperity. Within half-a-mile, viz., at Saltaire, Messrs. Hargreaves' and Mr. H. Mason's there are three of the largest weaving sheds to be found in the country—the least of them holding 1000 looms. Near Mason's Mill there is a curious and extensive mound, which it would be interesting to know the history of. Geologists would probably tell

us that it was left there on the occurrence of some primeval flood. Jane Hills, a little above, is an old settlement. The only name, however, that we can associate with it is that of Edward Craven, who was a tobacconist, his machinery being worked by a horse-gin.

Saltaire, the next prominent object along the route, is of too world-wide reputation to be dealt with except in a separate notice. The old people of Shipley still speak of it as Dixon Mill, and love to describe the situation as a "bonny spot." Close by the old mill were the "hippings," or stepping stones, memorable in connection with the death of John Nicholson, the poet. Cannot some memento be erected to mark the spot? As previously mentioned, Dixon Mill was in existence before 1680 as a corn or woollen mill, probably both, and, from its name, it would doubtless be erected by the Dixon family, afterwards becoming the property of Mr. Rookes, of Esholt. In 1779 John Briggs, a corn miller, obtained a twenty-one years' lease of the corn mill and land from William Rookes, at £53 a year. He was succeeded in 1790 by Joseph Lupton, who carried on the corn, scribbling and fulling departments, besides having a half-share in the Baildon Mill with Robert Craven. Joseph Lupton appears to have been a famous business man at that time, and made a nice competency. He died in 1806, and is interred at the Baptist Chapel, Shipley, of which he was an active member. Henry Wright Dawson, son of a cloth merchant of Leeds, who married Joseph Lupton's daughter Mary, took up the business. He was a well-educated man, and he also did well at Dixon Mill. Henry Dawson retired in 1815, and went to live at Frizinghall, but three unmarried members of his family have since returned to end their days on a little estate at Baildon Green, (left by their grandfather Lupton), within sight of the place of their birth. Messrs. W. and T. Holdsworth, a Wakefield firm, took the mills after Henry Dawson, and let off the fulling premises to Mr. Davison, Messrs. William and John Hodgson having the corn mill. Edward Berwick, William Denby and others have since occupied it, but for years the old place stood empty. In 1850 Sir Titus Salt, influenced no doubt by the picturesqueness of the scenery and by the advantages derivable from the river Aire, the canal, and the railway, decided upon this part of Airedale for the erection of his stupendous works. He bought the old mill and land from W. R. C. Stansfield, Esq., and adjoining lands from Dr. Outhwaite, Mr. Wainman and others, until he had acquired his present compact estate.

Hirst Mill was in existence in 1700. So long back as can be remembered it was a paper and corn mill, owned by Joseph Overend. His nephew, Thomas Wright, succeeded him in the business, and, on

his retirement, built the house now occupied by Dr. Ellis. Mr. Wright's nephew John then took the mill. Since the occurrence of a fire some years ago the paper mill only has been worked, and three years ago the whole premises, with the water rights, &c., were purchased by Sir Titus Salt from Mr. William Wright, son of John Wright. The paper mill is now occupied as such by Mr. John Hey. The surrounding scenery, enlivened by wood and water, is highly picturesque, and in the hands of its present proprietor this especial feature is not likely to suffer. Almost hid in the woods beyond is New Hirst Mill, a scribbling mill belonging to Col. Stansfield, of Esholt. It is occupied by the Idle Co-operative Society.

Ascending to the higher ground above the Keighley road, may be seen an old farmstead, known as the White House, which stood on the High Moor before it was enclosed; another has been superseded by Mr. George Knowles's picturesque residence called Hollins Hall. For residential purposes these pleasant uplands, airy but shielded by Bunker's Hill and the woods on the higher ground, are becoming increasingly sought after. The aristocratic quarter of Shipley, named Victoria Park, was another portion of the property of the Walker family, better known as Bishell's farm. It was purchased about twenty-five years ago by Mr. John Douglas, of Bradford, and the unsold portion of the estate has recently been purchased by a company, who are laying it out for villa residences.

At Shipley Lane Head is the well-known hostelry called the Coach and Horses, equally well-known as "John Crabtree's," or the "Branch." On the opening of the new highway to Bingley in 1826, the "Branch" public-house was built by John Wilmer Field, Esq., and the licence of the Brown Cow in Toller Lane was transferred thither. John Crabtree succeeded to the house on the death of his mother, and still dispenses entertainment to man and beast in his usual kindly, civil manner. He has been an overseer of the town for twenty-two years. The hill slopes extending from Heaton and Cliff Wood to Victoria Park are intended to be laid out for villa residences, a comprehensive plan for that purpose having been prepared by Messrs. Smith and Gotthardt, Lady Rosse's agents. Shipley Grange, long the residence and property of Mr. Thomas Aked, woolstapler, of Bradford, is now owned and occupied by Mr. S. E. Sichel, a Bradford merchant.

Redbeck Mill, the next old place falling under our notice, was the first worsted mill in the township, and was erected in 1815 by the former representative for Bradford, E. C. L. Kaye, Esq., whose father, John Cunliffe, of Addingham, is said to have made the first hank of

yarn produced in the Bradford market not spun by hand. George Thompson Lister, a name formerly well-known in Bradford and the district, commenced business here as a worsted spinner. His father at that time lived at and was the owner of Bolton House. In 1826 Mr. Lister failed in the worsted business, and his effects were "knocked down" to the highest bidder. He afterwards became a successful auctioneer and land agent in Bradford, and in the latter capacity acted for many years as steward for George Baron, Esq., of Clockhouse. In his later years Mr. Lister grew very corpulent, weighing nearly thirty stones, but bore his burden lightly, and attributed much of his popularity to his great bulk. He was, however, a man of vigorous intellect, a first-rate classical scholar, a good speaker, and was particularly smart at repartee. His geniality was proverbial. In his business relations Mr. Lister was a thoroughly honourable man. Although a strong opponent of the incorporation of Bradford he nevertheless became an active and valuable member of the Town Council, sitting for the Manningham Ward. His sudden death on Oct. 24, 1851, at the age of fifty-nine years, was generally regretted in Bradford. Redbeck Mill has been run by several parties in the worsted trade; but has for some years been used as a machine works by Mrs. Perry. Shipley Fields, the southern boundary of the township, has lately been transformed into a little suburb of genteel houses—a kind of half-way settlement between Bradford and Shipley. This was formerly a portion of the old family property of the Listers of Manningham.

The material prosperity of Shipley is undoubtedly due to the substitution of the worsted trade for the manufacture of cloth, during the years 1832-6. Although this is locally attributed to an accidental circumstance, there is little doubt that the ill-paid, sluggish cloth trade could not much longer have resisted the encroachments of the brisk and profitable trade of worsted which had its centre at Bradford. In connection with this transition, many of the old Shipley people speak in the highest terms of respect of Messrs. Samuel and William Denby, William and Joseph Hargreaves, and others, as pioneers in the movement which gave them good employment for their families. We have before us a list of twenty-six master cloth-makers who were engaged in that business in 1822, in which occur the names of Binns, Booth, Bradley, Butterfield, Denby, Dixon, Halliday, Horn, Laycock, Lee, Northrop, Parke, Rangdale, Rushforth, Speight, and Wilcock. Not one of these names is now represented in connection with cloth making. The principal reason assigned for that trade leaving the district is that it was "driven away by the Union."

About 1832 much discontent existed among the handloom weavers in the clothing district along the Aire valley down to Leeds, which resulted in the formation of an operatives' Trade Union. Both employers and employed at Shipley appear to have been under great pressure from persons belonging to this Union who resided lower down the valley; not a few of the operatives, rather than join it, sought employment in the worsted trade, and this fact, coupled with the annoyance to which the masters were subjected, led to the cloth trade leaving the district.

Up to this period Messrs. Denby had been the principal clothiers in the district. Samuel and William Denby, their predecessors, however, commenced the cloth business in a very humble way. They each lived at the little cluster of houses under the "craw-trees" at Lane Ends, now known as Matty Lee's, and were farmers under Joshua Field, Esq. It is related of Billy Denby (we adopt the colloquial; everybody then was either Sammy, Billy, or Tommy) that he used to spin and card on his knee until he could afford a "gin," which was turned by a "galloway." The brothers afterwards joined William Booth and John Lee, two other clothmakers, in the purchase of a piece of ground called Bridge-end Close, the property of John Outhwaite, apothecary, of Bradford, and in 1796 built upon it Providence Mill. In these new premises the four partners scribbled cloth for their neighbours, besides carrying on business as clothmakers. They afterwards enlarged the premises by adding a fulling mill. Samuel and William Denby had both sons who were early engaged in the business. John and James were the sons of Samuel, and William had a son of his own name, and another named Thomas. The two former continued at Providence Mill for a time, and carried on the scribbling and fulling business. William Denby, junior, however, seems to have been the most pushing business man of the family. He first began clothmaking at Moor End; and afterwards removed to Well Croft, where a substantial warehouse or shop had been built by his father. Here he carried on the cloth trade, employing many weavers at their own homes, until 1832, when the Union disturbances began, and he and others gave up the trade. For a short time, William Denby joined his brother Thomas in the wool business at Bradford, and then afterwards occupied successively the old Whiting Mill, Dixon Mill, and Providence Mill, all in the worsted trade. Meanwhile, the two founders of the family, Samuel and William, had died, the latter in 1831, and his brother in 1833. They are interred in the Wesleyan Chapel, Shipley, in the rearing of which they took an active part. William Denby, junior, built Wellcroft Mill in 1845, after-

wards enlarged, and in 1853 bought Tong Park Mills and estate, comprising 200 acres, the firm being then William Denby & Sons. Tong Park is situated at the foot of Hollins Hill, about two miles from Shipley, and was in former times the deer park of the Hawksworth family. When Mr. Denby purchased the estate, the old mills (originally built for woollen and turned by water) had been standing seven years. The premises then existing have been greatly enlarged, many cottages have been erected, and this once secluded nook is now a thriving manufacturing hamlet. The sudden death of Mr. William Denby in January, 1861, was much lamented. His sons, John, Joseph, and William, now conduct the business.

In the above reference to the transition period from the woollen to the worsted trade at Shipley, we have alluded more particularly to the Denbys, because in the history of that family both trades were represented. To trace the commencement in the Shipley valley of the worsted trade alone, we may give a similarly brief outline of the Hargreaves family. The history of the founder of that family at once takes us back to the middle of the last century, when shalloons and calimancoes were almost the only varieties of "stuffs" made in this neighbourhood. Much of the yarn for the finer descriptions of goods was then "exported" to Norwich by land or sea carriage. Wakefield was noted for the tammy trade, besides being the principal wool mart of the district. In the ten years succeeding 1750, the production of stuffs waxed greatly in this part of the West Riding. A new road to wealth being opened, "the farmer either forsook the tilling of the ground to follow the stuff business, or carried it on as a domestic employment along with the cultivation of the land, and with thrifty habits, was often in an incredibly short time enabled to purchase his homestead and farm." Of this thrifty race was James Hargreaves, who nearly a hundred years ago lived at the Old Castle at Frizinghall as a master stuff maker. He had while a farm servant learned to weave after ordinary working hours, and having saved a "bit o' money" he took a small farm at Delph Hill, Bolton. There he bought his first warp of James Garnett, of Paper Hall, Barkerend, and after converting it into "pieces," brought them to Bradford market to sell. While at Delph Hill he and his wife Martha (who was an active member of the "firm") worked early and late to increase their little store. They gave out "tops" in pounds and half-pounds to spin into yarn among the scattered houses in the district, and this yarn James collected in a "poke" which he carried on his back, leaving more "tops" to be spun. In order to extend his stuff business, James removed about 1779 to the Old Castle at Frizinghall, a large old house

belonging to the Listers, where he gave out hand-weaving and spinning, and here his business much increased. Two of his sons, William and Joseph, were early brought up to the business, and after the death of old James, in 1816, they in 1819 took Frizinghall Mill for worsted spinning, employing a large number of hand-weavers. They afterwards occupied Pricking Mill (which Joseph subsequently rebuilt, although it was not his own property), and the brothers also rented Redbeck Mill in addition to Frizinghall. They were thus doing an amount of business that would have astonished old James. Joseph Hargreaves, who appears to have been a worthy son of his plodding sire, was the principal business man. He lived near Pricking Mill, and afterwards removed to the house at Shipley Fields now occupied by his nephew, Mr. George Hargreaves. William, who went out of the business in 1830, removed to Burley Wood-head, where he died in 1838. Joseph was never married, but he had numerous nephews, four of whom, James, William, Thomas, and George, with Thomas Crabtree and Edward Cockshott, were taken into the business. In 1834 Joseph retired from the active management of the business which owed so much to his energy and perseverance. On the sale of the Walker property in 1849, he bought the land on which he erected Airedale Mills, the large manufacturing concern on the Otley Road. During the next year he purchased Shipley House and some adjoining land, on which he afterwards built a large number of cottage dwellings. Mr. Hargreaves died at Shipley Fields in 1861, aged eighty-two, honoured alike for his strict business probity and consistent piety. He was long a member of and benefactor to the Methodist society of Shipley, and was also for many years a director of the Bradford Commercial Bank. The business is now carried on under the old name of "Joseph Hargreaves" by his nephew Mr. George Hargreaves and Mr. George Hargreaves, junr. The firm employ 1400 hands, making, with Saltaire (3500) and Messrs. Denby's and Mr. H. Mason's hands, an aggregate of 6900 workpeople employed in the worsted manufacture by four Shipley firms.

The principal commercial firms in Shipley in the worsted manufacture are—Sir Titus Salt, Bart., Sons & Co., Saltaire; Messrs. Hargreaves, Airedale Mills; Messrs. William Denby & Sons, Wellcroft and Tong Park Mills; Mr. Henry Mason, Victoria Mills; and Messrs. G. & T. Denby, Low Well Mills. There are also the cotton works of Mr. Joseph Crowther; Hirst Mill, paper manufacture, worked by Mr. John Hey; New Hirst Mill, cloth scribbling, occupied by the Idle Co-operative Company; the finishing works of Mr. Thomas Craven; Mr. Robert Hird, ironfounder; Messrs. Lee and

Crabtree, machinists and ironfounders ; Redbeck machine works, Mrs. Perry ; Messrs. John Ives & Son, William Ives & Co., and Deacon and Whitaker, joiners and builders.

Owing to the abundance of stone in the neighbourhood of Heaton, &c., large quantities of wallstones, flags and landings are sent to all parts of the country from Shipley. Being of good quality, they command a good price. Many of the landings on the Thames Embankment went from this quarter. The fire-clay on the uplands being of first-class quality, the Shipley fire-bricks are famous where such articles are used. To the late Mr. George Heaton is due the credit of introducing the fire-clay business into Shipley thirty years ago, and his successors, J. Rhodes Fyfe & Co., now carry on the business at the "Shipley and Heaton Collieries and Fire-brick Works." Engaged in the same business is also the Shipley Fire-clay Company. The coal of the soft or low bed is thin, being only about twelve inches in thickness, but it is of excellent quality as smithy or gas coal, and is considerably used for those purposes.

The oldest religious organisation in Shipley is the Baptist Church at Bethel, which is a daughter of the old Baptist Church at Rawdon, the parent of many of the same denomination in this part of Yorkshire. In 1750 a person named Joseph Gaukrodger was baptized at Rawdon ; and in 1752 began to preach in an upper room at the "Holt," in Windhill. There the people continued to worship and Mr. Gaukrodger to preach until 1758, when a church was formed at Shipley, composed of members from the church at Rawdon and persons baptized at Shipley. Immediately after the formation of the church, ground was bought and a small chapel erected on the site occupied by the present chapel. Mr. Gaukrodger resigned the pastorate of the church in 1767, having ministered to the people for fifteen years. The second minister of this church was Mr. Luke Collinge, originally a member of the church at Bacup. Mr. Collinge remained at Shipley two years, but changed his views and became an Independent ; he subsequently settled as pastor over the Independent church at Kendal, where he lived for forty years, and died about the year 1810. Mr. George Haines became the third pastor of the church in 1774. It was said of him that "he was a man eminent for simplicity and godly manners." During his labours the chapel was enlarged, and the congregation grew rapidly. After seven years' labour Mr. Haines died, but his name was long had in remembrance by aged survivors of the congregation. A Mr. Gaze, of Dunstable, settled at Shipley in 1781, but his "sun went down while it was yet day." He died after six months' residence, a victim to small-pox. He was succeeded, in 1782, by Mr. Bowser, of

Sunderland, who ministered for thirty years, and in addition "worked with his hands." At his settlement the church was very low, but the congregation gradually increased, the chapel was again enlarged, and galleries added, the salary was doubled, the workshop deserted, and the pastor lived

"Passing rich on *fifty* pounds a year."

Mr. Bowser resigned the pastorate in 1812. An old record states that "during his time the church and congregation were truly respectable." We now enter upon a period which will be remembered by many in Shipley, viz., the time of the Rev. Isaac Mann, who laboured from 1814 until 1826 with great acceptance and success. Mr. Mann had studied at Horton, under Dr. Steadman, but previously to coming to Shipley he had laboured at Burslem, in Staffordshire. In 1817 he was appointed assistant classical tutor at Horton College, a position which he held in addition to his Shipley pastorate. After coming to Shipley he built Ebor House, in Low Lane, now called Briggate, and behind the house erected a baptistery, where, during his ministry, the baptismal services were held, the congregation gathering on the opposite bank. To Mr. Mann the Baptists of Shipley are indebted for preserving much of their early history. He published several theological works, consisting of essays and discourses. His ability as a preacher, and that he was a man "mighty in the Scriptures," are generally acknowledged, and his earnest and zealous labours were abundantly crowned with success. According to a memorandum of Mr. Mann's, there were at his settlement fifty-six members—not a small number when the size of the village at that time is considered. During his ministry of twelve years this number was more than doubled. In 1826 he received an invitation to Maze Pond, London, where he laboured until his death. The Rev. James Edwards, son-in-law of Dr. Steadman, was ordained pastor of the church in January, 1828, and after three years he was succeeded by the Rev. Peter Scott, of Colne. During Mr. Scott's ministry the old chapel was razed to the ground, and the present commodious edifice erected on its site in 1836. For sixteen years Mr. Scott laboured at Bethel with great success, and his removal to Sutton in 1847 is said to have cast quite a gloom over the people. The total number received into the church during his pastorate was 250. Subsequent ministers have been the Revs. Kerr Johnston, J. P. Campbell, R. Green, and E. F. Cossey.

In 1775, during Mr. Haines' ministry, the seat rents realised about £4 10s. per quarter, or £18 a year, which constituted that gentleman's stipend, with the addition of about £4 received from "the fund," which was also handed to him. A "collection" the same year for expenses

realised 17s. 1d., part of which was expended in "6 pound of candles, 3s. 2d.; 8 load of coals, 3s. 8d.; snofers, 1d.; nails, 6d.; Wm. Rushworth, for glass, 4s. 6d.," &c. In 1781, when Mr. Haines left, the quarterage had reached £6 7s. 6d. Mr. Bowser's first year's salary amounted to £35 3s., including £4 4s. from "the fund." This was increased to £48 or £50 in a few years. The congregation then had somewhat increased owing to the popularity of the minister, and many came from other places. Between morning and afternoon service it was usual for these to adjourn to Nancy Roberts's, the Fox and Hounds, where that good soul served them with "mease pots" of broth for a halfpenny each! Up to the year 1825 there was no baptistery in the chapel. Those seeking the rite of baptism, therefore, had to resort to streams in the neighbourhood; the mill goit at Pricking, and the river near the stepping-stones at Dixon Mill being favourite places. In the burial-ground attached to the chapel are many old Shipley names, as the following:—Atkinson, Hall, Rushworth, Dixon, Bateson, Lupton, Rhodes, Skirrow, Spurr, and Kendall. In 1815 the new burial-ground was added, at a cost of £60. The chapel is lighted free of expense to the present congregation, as Mr. John Hall, grocer, of Low Well, left gas shares towards that object, and a surplus remains which is allotted to the poor.

Connected with the early history of Bethel Chapel might be named several persons who were prominent pillars of the church and sharers of its early struggles. James and Nanny Hall were in their day amongst the best supporters of Bethel Chapel. During the greater part of the life of Nanny Hall her house was the general resort of ministers visiting Shipley, and her hospitality and genuine nobleness of character were widely known. The first feast of tea and buns for Sunday scholars was given in Shipley by Nanny Hall. As a supporter of the Baptist cause in Shipley, Mr. John Hall, the son of James and Nanny Hall, also deserves a prominent place. Besides the gas shares given by him to the Bethel Chapel, he also devoted an equal amount to Rosse Street Chapel for the same purpose, and altogether Mr. Hall gave to that chapel a sum equal to £1000. The late John Teal, who joined the church in 1800, was until his death a faithful friend and adviser in any matter concerning the interests of the church or any one attending it. He was a deacon for forty years. Mr. Teal was a joiner, and left property to his daughter, who was also a benefactor of the chapel. He died in June, 1848. James Lambert, William Pickard, William Pullan, Richard Spurr, and William Rhodes also stand out prominently as other zealous co-workers. Isaac Hall was "clerk" for many years. Since its formation the church has sent three of its

members into the ministry, namely, Ebenezer Cook, Miles Oddy, and William Wade. John Butterfield, the centenarian, who died in 1870, was made a member of the church on the 11th July, 1795, he being then in his thirtieth year. He was a member for seventy-five years. Joseph Illingworth was another old member. He was a descendant of the Illingworths of Allerton, and, like them, was noted as having a fine alto voice. He was the "leading singer" for many years, and was apparently indispensable in that capacity. It was reported that on one occasion when he was away from home *seven* tunes were started all at once! He also held the office of deacon for a length of time, and was much respected. A son of Joseph Illingworth's, named Robert, died about two years since in his ninetieth year. He was also a member of the Baptist church for sixty years, and no man in Shipley, rich or poor, was more respected. Joseph Verity, who died at the close of 1875, having attained his ninety-third year, had also been long a member.

Having been much straitened for room in the old chapel on the hill, it was thought advisable to divide the congregation, especially as a large population was growing up at the opposite end of Shipley to that in which the chapel was erected. Accordingly in January, 1865, the foundation-stone of Rosse Street Chapel was laid by Thomas Aked, Esq., who from the first was a liberal promoter of the project. The chapel is situate at the junction of Church Lane with Kirkgate, and is a beautiful structure, creditable alike to the Baptists of Shipley and to the architect, Mr. S. Jackson. It is of modified Gothic style, the principal front being to Church Lane. The interior of the chapel is beautifully chaste, and in the solemn, quiet tone it presents few Dissenting chapels in the neighbourhood can bear comparison with it. The entire cost, exclusive of the site, was about £5500. Sitting accommodation is afforded for 950 persons. The opening of the new chapel took place in June 1866, the Rev. R. Green, who had had charge of the old chapel, being the first pastor. The collections on that occasion reached the large sum of £800. A new organ was erected in the chapel in 1871. Its style of architecture is in perfect keeping with that of the chapel, and it is besides one of the largest instruments in the district. About 200 members were dismissed from Bethel Chapel to form the church in Rosse Street, in addition to nearly all the Sunday scholars and teachers. Under Mr. Cossey's pastorate, however, the number of church members much increased, and extensive alterations and additions have been made to the old chapel, involving a cost of £1600, which has all been cleared off. The first Sunday school connected with the Baptists was commenced in 1822,

under the ministry of Mr. Mann. About the year 1848 a branch school was established in a cottage at Charlestown, and in 1855 the present school-room was built.

In the absence of any documentary assistance we are unable to give a connected account of the origin and progress of Methodism in Shipley. As an organisation, however, it appears to date from about 1800, although from an old book relating to the Bradford Wesleyan Society, and dated 1763, it appears that Shipley then formed a station in the Bradford branch of the Birstal circuit, as 6s. 5d. is paid in under the head of Shipley by Thomas Fairbank, the leader. Very little is known of the intervening period up to 1800, except that there were Methodists in the village, and that some of them worshipped at the chapel at Eccleshill and the old Octagon chapel at Bradford. About 1784 a little band met in class at Abraham Parke's at Lane End, among them being Mercy Drake and her brother, John Ackroyd, who was a noted local preacher; William, Robert, and Samuel Denby, Joshua Hainsworth; John Hudson, shoemaker, afterwards a minister; Joseph and John West; William Hodgson, of Wrose, and Alice, his wife; Stephen Skirrow, Alice's brother; and Joseph Sutcliffe, of Baildon, afterwards of some reputation as a minister and commentator. There was then no chapel, but on William and Samuel Denby, William Booth and John Lee completing Providence Mill, it occurred to them that, having been prosperous in their worldly undertaking, they were called upon to do something towards supplying the spiritual wants of their neighbours. Accordingly they gave the ground and the name to Providence Chapel, and £20 each towards the erection. John Ackroyd, above named, begged money when on his preaching excursions, and in due time a little square chapel costing £450 was reared. The little chapel had at first no seats on the floor. The preachers best remembered who travelled the circuit at that time were Timothy and Jonathan Crowther, and Isaac Muff. In 1823 Shipley was made the head of a circuit, having been previously in the Bingley circuit. It was, however, rejoined to Bingley in 1828, and separated again in 1830. The Reform agitation among the Wesleyan body was very strong at Shipley, and caused great disruption. The Conference party, however, retained the chapel, but gave up the Sunday school-room, which had been erected in 1829, and a new "trust" was formed. The old chapel was soon afterwards pulled down, and the present edifice erected, in 1853, at a cost of £2000. In 1859 the late Mr. Joseph Hargreaves presented the school premises opposite the chapel to the Wesleyan body, and they have since been used for Sunday and day school purposes.

The schools originally cost the donor £500, and an addition has since been made to them, making their present worth £1100.

St. Paul's Church was built at a time when there was not one-sixth of the population in Shipley that there is now, and in a position which was considered a long way from the village. It was one of the last of the churches erected under the Government grant authorised by the Million Act, and it is considered one of the handsomest built under that provision. An acre of land for the site was given by John Wilmer Field, Esq., lord of the manor. The foundation-stone was laid on November 5th, 1823, and the building was opened in 1826, on the same day that Wilsden Church was opened, of which it is an exact counterpart. On that occasion a panic ensued owing to the breaking down of a platform. Many persons were trampled upon, but none were seriously injured. The architect of the church was Mr. J. Oates, of Halifax, who was also the architect of Wilsden Church, and the contractor was named Aspinall. Much of the stone came from the Gaisby Quarries, Idle. The first cost of the erection was £7687 19s. 3d. It was arranged to seat 1488 persons, but recent alterations have somewhat reduced that number. The two capacious galleries are free, and are generally filled. The church was consecrated by the Archbishop of York, as a district church comprising Shipley and Heaton, but some years ago, through the exertions of the then curate-in-charge, the Rev. H. A. Mitton, a church at Heaton was erected, and that township was made into a separate district. Shipley Church is a large Gothic structure, with nave, chancel, and tower. The tower originally contained six bells, but these have been augmented to an octave, and a movement is on foot to increase the number to ten. From the position of the church, the merry peals which are given out from these bells are heard to great advantage along Aire-dale. A four-dialed clock was erected, in 1867, by public subscription, at a cost of £257, and a surplus remained of £100, which was converted into an endowment for keeping the clock in repair. In 1829 a "faculty" was obtained to erect an organ, and a valuable addition was made to it a few years since by Messrs. Jardine, of Manchester, at a cost of £200. Mr. Solomon Clayton, of Bradford, was the first organist, then Mr. Joseph Firth, and now his son, Mr. B. Firth. Before the introduction of this instrument, however, the services were performed by the little Choral Society, several of whose names have been given, accompanied by an odd admixture of instrumentalists. The first incumbent of the church was the Rev. Thos. Newberry, M.A. Mr. Newberry was a bachelor at the time he lived at Shipley. He was a very genial man, and will long be remembered as a friend to the

poor, and a consistent, charitable minister of the gospel. He resigned the incumbency in 1845, having held it for sixteen years, and was afterwards rector of Hinton, Somersetshire, where he died in March, 1861. Amongst the worshippers of the church during his time were the Listers, of Manningham, the Duffields, of Bradford, and the Fields, of Heaton. Mr. John Wright, of Hirst Mill, was a very prominent man in church affairs at that time, as also were Mr. Richard Bates and Mr. John Hodgson. The present incumbent, the Rev. William Kelly, M.A., has held the living for above thirty years, having been appointed in 1845, and like his predecessor is deservedly respected by all classes. He was, previous to his induction at Shipley, the first clergyman appointed to Clayton. The living, which soon after the erection of the church was returned at £50 a year, is now worth £370, and is in the gift of Simeon's Trustees. There is a good parsonage, erected in 1848.

The interior of this beautiful church will repay careful inspection for its light and airy columns and arches, and the symmetry of all its details. In the chancel of the church is placed a memorial window of the highest order of art by Mr. Barnett, of Edinburgh, which cost £300. The window is commemorative of several former residents of the neighbourhood, among them being the late John Garnett Horsfall, of Bolton Royd, and his wife; Richard Fawcett, of Bradford, and his two wives; James Hargreaves, of Shipley, &c. A beautiful window erected by Mr. Jesse Cockshott, in memory of his brother William, is placed at a serious disadvantage by being partially hid behind the north gallery. For correctness of drawing, solidity of tone, and general mediæval effect, this window is unapproached by any other example of the stainer's art in the church. The artists were Messrs. Clayton and Ball, of London. Two other windows, although possessing brilliance of colour, scarcely admit of favourable criticism. The church is further enriched by two companion stained windows, erected under the will of the late Mr. Henry Beanland, of Bradford, who, in addition, left £500 towards a restoration of the church. Within the chancel are tablets to Francis and David Rouse, and also to William Brumfit, surgeon. Another is erected by the two daughters of John Wilmer Field, in their father's memory. His body lies in a private vault beneath the chancel. Another beautiful tablet on the western wall was placed there by the Countess of Rosse, in remembrance of the faithful services of her steward, Mr. Timothy Stocks.

A complete remodelling of the interior arrangements of the church took place in December, 1875. The organ was brought down into the north aisle near the chancel. The west gallery was taken down; and

open seats in oak were substituted for the old "pews." These extensive alterations involved an outlay of £3800, all of which has been defrayed. The burial-ground of Shipley Church has long been a favourite resting-place of the dead, and within its sacred precincts are gathered all that remains of many well-known townsmen of Bradford and the neighbourhood of Shipley. Among other reasons which might be advanced to explain its popularity, may be mentioned the unattractive character of the Parish Church and other graveyards of Bradford as contrasted with the pleasant outlook and dry sandy subsoil of Shipley churchyard. The fees for interment in the latter place were also much lower than in Bradford. The ground was augmented in 1860 by the addition of an acre.

The St. Paul's Church Schools were opened in September, 1858, and occupy a prominent position in Church Lane, now one of the principal approaches to the town. An infants' school-room was erected lately in the rear of the other buildings. The cost of the whole has been about £3600. Previous to the erection of these schools Shipley had suffered much from a want of accommodation for the rapidly-increasing rising generation. The Rev. Mr. Kelly, however, after much labour, secured a Government grant, and the inhabitants responded by subscribing so liberally as to make up the requisite amount. Mr. A. F. Firth has been the master for above twenty years. Mrs. A. F. Firth is mistress of the girls' school.

The Primitive Methodists first "missioned" Shipley in 1822, but did not then succeed in establishing a permanent society. We find little or nothing worthy of note in connection with their efforts in the town from the above period until 1832, when James Murgatroyd removed from Baildon Green to Shipley. He being a Primitive opened his house for preaching and formed a class. From that time the cause continued to grow. The first class-meeting was held in what is now called Westgate. In a short time the members rented a room for preaching. This room is still known and spoken of by some of the elder members as "t'owd raam at top o' t'taan." In a few years this room became too small, and in 1839 the Primitives purchased ground for a new chapel in Low Lane. Many were the taunts and sneers cast at them at this time. "The idea," it was said, "of the Ranters buying ground for £320 to build a chapel, and not a man among them worth £20." But if they had not much money they had much faith, and so the work went on. The chapel was completed at a cost (including the ground purchase) of £1100. In 1859 the chapel was enlarged and some cottages under it transformed into a Sunday school at a cost of £400. Again, in the course of a few years, the cry arose

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for more room, and in 1871 Sir Titus Salt generously gave them the site on which now stands their commodious new chapel in Saltaire Road. This edifice provides sitting accommodation for 1000 persons, and cost in erection upwards of £5000. The old chapel was on the erection of the new building sold to Mr. Edward Holden, who converted it into a Good Templars' Hall.

Hall Lane Chapel was built by the Church of Wesleyan Reformers, and is the result of the unhappy dispute that shook the old Wesleyan body in 1849-50. For ten or twelve years the Sabbath school was taught and worship carried on in what was formerly the Wesleyan Sabbath school, but in 1863 the present chapel was built at a cost of about £1600. It is a commodious building, capable of seating 500 persons. The debt upon the chapel was at first £900, but this has been reduced to less than £400, and the congregation hope soon to remove the incumbrance altogether, when it is probable they may be able to secure the services of a resident minister.

The Independent or Congregationalist interest in Shipley is of very recent date. In 1870 the building in which they worship, in Bradford Road, was erected at a cost of about £1700, and was opened on December 11 in that year. The upper floor is used for public worship, and the rooms on the basement for Sunday school purposes. It is, however, intended at some time to erect a chapel fronting to the road, when the present building will be devoted exclusively to its original purpose. The Rev. Robert Vaughan, of Airedale College, undertook the pastorate of the church in 1872, this being his first charge. At the close of 1875 he removed to Forest Hill, London, and in July, 1876, the Rev. P. T. Forsyth, M.A., of Aberdeen, became minister. The constitution of this church differs from that ordinarily recognised among Congregationalists, inasmuch as there is no "test" of membership, and the communion is open to such as choose to partake of that rite.

The Catholic Chapel of St. Walburga was opened in August, 1867, but a "mission" had been instituted years before. The chapel is built on a plot of land in Victoria Park, purchased from E. C. Kaye, Esq. The congregation is a very scattered one, the members coming generally from Baildon, Bingley, Shipley, Cottingley, and surrounding places. A presbytery forms part of the buildings. The present chapel is a plain Gothic structure, with small sanctuary adjoining, but it is intended to erect a handsome one in course of time, ample ground having been reserved for that purpose. The Rev. Henry Walker has been the officiating priest from the opening of the mission-room.

A Town Mission Institute was inaugurated in a wooden building

near the Oddfellows' Hall, in 1868, but the premises have been displaced by the improvements carried out by the Midland Company, in the extension of the goods yard. A plot of land for a permanent chapel in West Cliff Road having been secured, a new chapel was opened on Christmas Day, 1875, at a cost of £2000, and it will afford sitting accommodation for 450 persons.

The earliest school in the district of which we have any record was one at Windhill Crag, taught by Mr. Clough. On Sundays the scholars walked to Bradford Church with Sammy Cowling, the superintendent, at their head. Another school was afterwards opened in Low Lane, and John Nicholson also started a school at Low Well shortly afterwards. Mr. and Mrs. Bullock taught school in a large room in the Old Hall, and had a considerable number of scholars. The Baptists commenced one about 1822, and the Wesleyans had the use of the town's school in Crowgill. After Shipley Church was built a proposition was made in 1827 by the church teachers to have the school for half the day on Sundays. This resulted in the Wesleyans having notice to give up possession. Much ill-feeling was aroused in connection with these events. John Sutcliffe had the town's school on week-day's during this time, and was very successful. He, however, lost favour owing to the part he took in "locking out the Wesleyans," and his school fell off. The town's school was in 1828 converted into cottages, and the year after the Wesleyans built a school in Commercial Street, near the present Co-operative Stores. The Church people also built a small school-room in Saltaire Road. The recent educational appliances of Shipley have progressed rapidly, but not more so than the increasing population required. The National Schools are noticed above. The Saltaire Schools were opened in 1868, to accommodate 700 scholars. The Catholics have a small day school at Victoria Park. The total number of children of school age within the district is 4300. The School Board is now erecting a large school in Saltaire Road at an estimated cost of £16,000, to accommodate 1000 children. The style of the building will be Italian, of a chaste character. Messrs. Jackson & Longley are the architects. The members composing the School Board elected in 1874, are :—Messrs. Titus Salt, jun. (chairman), Henry Mason, James Fyfe, Joseph Wood, George Hargreaves, Joseph Denby, and Mark Stainsby. The clerk is Mr. Elijah Newsham.

The Shipley Gas Company was established in 1846-47, with a capital of £5000 in £5 shares. In 1853 and 1870 further powers were obtained, and the plant much increased. The business done by this company has been a most remunerative one.

Shipley, like many other places, was greatly benefited by the construction of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, soon after 1770. In that year an Act was passed to construct a canal from Leeds Bridge to Lady Walk, Liverpool. This was considered at the time a most gigantic undertaking, and proved of vast service to the numerous towns on its route. The total length of the canal is 130 miles. It was not completed to Liverpool until 1816, having cost half-a-million of money. The great value of this expensive work may be imagined when at the present time, even with railways running alongside through its entire length, the shares are worth nearly five times the original cost. By a return of the proprietors made in 1806, we find that in Bradford alone 210 of these shares were held by forty-six persons. From the opening of the canal there have been wharfs at Shipley, where much business has been done, and this was increased on the opening of the branch canal to Bradford, for which an Act was obtained in 1774.

The Leeds and Bradford Railway (leased by the Midland Company) was opened on the 2nd July, 1846, and the extension from Shipley to Bingley and Keighley in March, 1847. On April 15th, 1875, the branch of the Great Northern Railway from Shipley and Windhill to Laisterdyke was opened. By this line Shipley has access to the Great Northern system, and thus an alternative route to London by way of Idle and Eccleshill is obtained. The Shipley and Guiseley Railway is also making rapid progress. This new railway is a Midland branch, connecting the Leeds and Bradford and Otley and Ilkley railways, making its junctions with the respective lines near Shipley and Guiseley. The length is three and a half miles. There will be stations at Baildon and Esholt. By this line easy access will be given to the beautiful vale of the Wharfe, and a connection made with the North Eastern Railway. Some idea of the extent of the present railway traffic may be formed when it is stated that 120 passenger trains stop at Shipley station daily, and no fewer than 50,000 ordinary passengers a month use the station, in addition to about 1100 season-ticket holders. Since the opening of the Settle and Carlisle Railway in May, 1876, Shipley has been placed on the main Midland line north and south, *with a branch to Bradford!* In 1874 Shipley was constituted a separate post town or head-office. Previously it had been a sub-office of Leeds.

Among the many successful political clubs in the West Riding, the Shipley Liberal Club is entitled to a prominent place. The club was established in April, 1872, in premises which were soon found to be too small, when it was removed to Wainman Street. The club numbers over 400 members. The Conservative Club has recently been removed to rooms in Victoria Buildings, which are well adapted for the purpose.

There are many friendly societies in the Shipley district, and an Oddfellows' Hall was erected in 1840.

Shipley has always been noted for its "tide" or "feast." In years gone by, when "shows," with their wonderful collections of giants, fat women, and other oddities, were not so numerous as now, the "fair ground" was in the open space between Briggate and the canal side. Large numbers of these peripatetic showmen now visit Shipley Tide, and for a few days have a busy time of it.

In concluding our notice of Shipley we must not omit to state that a weekly market is held every Friday, which is well attended, and a good deal of business is done.

During the year ending December 31, 1875, 509 births and 307 deaths were registered in Shipley. The 509 births were equal to an annual rate of 33·9 per thousand persons estimated to be living in the township—the excess of births over deaths being 202. The 307 deaths were equal to an annual rate of 20·4, and included 140 males and 167 females.

Shipley has been rich in centenarians. John Butterfield, who died in 1870 in his 105th year, has been previously mentioned. Hannah Holmes, of Shipley, died in 1828, aged 104 years. The next in age is Mercy Drake, relict of Samuel Drake, smith and farrier, who died in 1842 in her 103rd year. She had been a member of the Methodist body upwards of eighty years. James Collinson, another centenarian, died at Shipley in 1834, aged 100 years. He was born at Low Moor about the year 1733, but came to Windhill very early in life, and resided there until he was about thirty years of age, when he enlisted in a regiment of foot. Soon after he was sent to the West Indies, where he remained till his term of twenty years had expired, when he retired on a pension, which he enjoyed for more than fifty years. Soon after he returned, he sought out his old sweetheart, whom he married in a very short time. He had two daughters; one of them (Sarah) was born in 1785, and lived upwards of fourscore years. James Atkinson, weaver, of Moorhead, died in 1849, having attained his 100th year. Mary Close, of "New York," Shipley, reached 94, and died in 1855. William Dibb, butcher, of Mount Pleasant, died in 1850, aged 90. Francis Simpson, of Piccadilly, died in 1849, aged 90. Thomas Smith, woolcomber, Chapel Lane, also reached 90, and died in 1843. Ellen Myers, also 90, died in 1842. William Unwin, clothier, of Chapel Lane, and Robert Illingworth, weaver, aged respectively 88 and 89, died within the last year or two, both deservedly respected. Joseph Verity, a brave old man for his years, died at Stairfoot in 1875, in his 94th

year. Mrs. James Booth, who has died since, was fast approaching her 90th year.

One or two old Shipley people may be named here who have not been previously mentioned, and among them Stephen Bedford, a "gentleman's gentleman," who, in that capacity, lived with Anthony Wrightson, Esq.; also, Mrs. Ann Murgatroyd, a well-known and respected greengrocer; Will Hainsworth, the constable; and Thomas Speight, butcher. Joshua Goldsbrough, of Baildon, married a daughter of the latter, and was father to Mr. Richard Goldsbrough, who has been for many years a successful wool dealer in Australia. In remembrance of his native place, the latter gentleman sends, yearly, a considerable sum to be distributed among the poor of Shipley. Shipley also used to be noted for its musicians, who, in promotion of good music and good fellowship, loved to assemble at each other's houses, besides visiting their brother musicians in Baildon, Guiseley, Bingley, and other places. Of this harmonious band John Ives, of Low Well, bass and French horn player, was the leader. Watty Gill blew his own trumpet; Joseph Firth and James Wood were violinists; Henry Pickles, George Bowser, and Tom Hirst were clarionet and trombone players; George Bateson was another bass player. The vocalists were Benjamin Sugden, clerk of the church; Billy Butterfield, the present clerk; George and Joshua Hainsworth, Johnny Lupton, and others. Several of the members of this famous choral society are dead, and others are scattered, but yearly re-unions are still held of such as can be got together.

What Shipley was, we have endeavoured faithfully to describe. What it may attain to we can only judge of by present appearances, which are all auspicious. Few places in the West Riding are so admirably situated so far as approaches and means of transit are concerned, and there is no lack of energy in the town to take advantage of recent favouring circumstances. Many prophecies have been uttered in former days that Bradford and Shipley would in time join hands. This has even now been almost realised.

Saltaire is situated about half-a-mile from Shipley and nearly four miles from Bradford, in a picturesque part of the valley of the Aire. We question, indeed, if a prettier bit of scenery is to be found along its whole course than meets the eye of the visitor while looking up the valley from Saltaire Bridge. The slopes of Baildon Bank, bright with summer foliage, the lively foreground of meadow and water, and the opening vista of wood, water, and moorland in the distance, all make up a truly pretty picture. Should it be on a summer's evening, when

the workpeople are enjoying themselves in the Park or on the river ; or on a holiday, when troops of town visitors, after bestowing a wondering gaze on the big factory, linger about the bridge or wind their way up to Eldwick Glen—the scene is most animating. On the shoulders of two charmingly wooded knolls eastward and westward stand in commanding altitudes the handsome mansions of Mr. Charles Stead and Mr. Titus Salt, two of the principals of the works at Saltaire. That of Mr. Titus Salt stands in a newly-formed park near the site of a homestead of about the seventeenth century, named “Milner Field,” and the old name is still retained. The Old English type of plan, adapted to present requirements, has been adopted, and the whole treatment of the structure has been kept in harmony with this. The fittings and much of the furniture have been made from special designs. Extensive hot-houses are placed in the kitchen garden on the higher ground.

The estate, which received the name of Saltaire by the combination of the name of the founder with that of the river on which the estate is situated, lies in a compact form, and stretches from the Bradford and Keighley Road to the confines of Baildon Green, being intersected by the River Aire, the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, and the Midland Railway. This “wonderful creation,” as it has been styled by a high authority, was conceived by Sir Titus (then Mr.) Salt, and carried out by him to its present vastness, in order that he might gather into one comprehensive whole the several establishments occupied by him in Bradford for the manufacture of alpaca and mohair—the two textiles with which his name will ever be associated.

So much has been written, said, and sung about Saltaire and its special manufacture that we might indeed despair of adding anything worth the reading, if that were alone the primary object in preparing these sketches of village history. The first purchase of “three hundred and odd bags of nondescript hair wool” made by its far-seeing founder, has been amusingly described by Dickens, and henceforth is alpaca immortalised ; “Saunterers,” commissioned by the local and metropolitan press, have wandered through the labyrinthine mazes of the huge factory, and have recorded their impressions in epistles more or less readable ; Saltaire has been visited by savants and less learned but more practical people from many parts of the globe, with what results time may show ; and, in addition, a complete history of the place, by a local historian, Mr. Abraham Holroyd, may be consulted by anyone desiring full details of this model town. This series of “Round-about” papers, however, would be altogether incomplete without some notice of the now famous Saltaire ; and for

what has been published on the subject, may we be truly thankful ! seeing that of all the villages included in these sketches not one of them had previously found a local historian from whom to cull.

Saltaire has before now been likened to a commercial Utopia. However daring a flight of imagination this may seem, yet to our mind we have a fairly-realised Utopia even in manufacturing Saltaire. As a town—and especially as a manufacturing town—it is a marvel of cleanliness, cheerfulness, and beauty. Its inhabitants should be, whether they are or not, a superior and happy people. With constant work, decent homes, and munificent provision for instruction, amusement, and recreation close at hand, we cannot imagine any rational cause for discontent. Of course, ripe fruit does not drop into one's mouth unplucked even at Saltaire. The "dignity of labour" is upheld there in its integrity, and "charity," in its demoralising sense, is unrecognised either by the employer or employed. The provision of so many dwellings is a simple commercial transaction between Sir Titus Salt and his employés. For those living outside, who need morning and mid-day refreshment, a capital breakfast or dinner is provided for a surprisingly small sum—but everything must be paid for, however reasonable the sum may be. The utmost freedom and liberty of action is thus secured to all who reside in or are in any way connected with the place. In only one respect that we know of is there any restrictive veto exercised. Across its boundary line is written this inexorable edict—"All beer abandon ye that enter here." The consequence is that "fuddlers" find no abiding place at Saltaire.

This is not the place to speak of the long and honourable public career or private worth of Sir Titus Salt ; but a brief sketch of his early history, and of the causes which led to the founding of Saltaire may be interesting. Titus Salt was born at the Old Manor House, Morley, on the 20th September, 1803. On his father, the late Mr. Daniel Salt, removing to Crofton, near Wakefield, his son Titus attended the Grammar School at Heath, and there received a good education. Daniel Salt afterwards settled in Bradford as a wool dealer, and was for many years one of the most extensive dealers in that trade. In this business he was joined by his son Titus, the firm thenceforward being "Daniel Salt & Son." Donskoi wool was at that time exclusively used in the woollen manufacture, and the Salts were very large dealers in it. It occurred, however, to Mr. Titus Salt that it might with equal advantage be introduced into the worsted trade. He accordingly went round to the Bradford spinners, but they "turned up their noses" at it ; at any rate, none of them could be induced to believe that what would make cloth was equally applicable

to other descriptions of goods. Nothing therefore remained but to give up the scheme altogether, or else undertake it himself, and this Mr. Salt resolved to do. He accordingly commenced business as a spinner and manufacturer at Thompson's Mill, Silsbridge Lane, Bradford, subsequently occupying Hollings' Mill, Brick Lane Mill, Beecroft Mill, and Union Street Mill, besides giving out weaving by commission. It will thus be seen that Mr. Salt's commercial experiment with the Donskoi wool led to most important results, inasmuch as on leaving Bradford he had become one of the principal employers in the worsted trade. But successful as Mr. Salt had been in his endeavours to introduce Donskoi wool into the Bradford trade, a still greater triumph awaited him through his successful treatment of alpaca or Llama wool. It was in 1836, while on a visit to the Liverpool warehouses, that he first made acquaintance with this new and unappreciated fibre, but the story is historical, and need not be repeated here. Mr. Salt, however, quickly discovered the rare qualities of alpaca wool: he observed its long staple and fine lustre, and soon brought these qualities into commercial use. As with Donskoi wool, the new South American material quickly rose into favour, and from 8d. a pound (the price at which Mr. Salt made his first purchase of three hundred and odd bags) the value has risen to 2s. 9d. per pound, while the quantity imported has been immensely increased. The quantity of alpaca wool imported in 1836, the year above-named, was about 570,000 lbs.; for the year ending December 31, 1874, the amount was 4,186,381 lbs., equal to £557,586 in value. In connection with alpaca must be mentioned mohair or goat's wool, which in December, 1874, had increased to 8,013,706 lb. in weight, and £1,046,178 in value. The growth in consumption of the above fibrous raw materials may be said to represent in some measure a corresponding increase in the Bradford trade and in the town itself. In the year 1850 the number of mills in Bradford and its suburbs had increased to nearly 200. The town was becoming rapidly overcrowded, dirty, and smoky, and its streams more polluted, but Mr. Salt determined to be no party to its further increase or pollution. He had also witnessed the evil consequences of unhealthy work-rooms and cottage dwellings, and resolved that during the remainder of his commercial career he would endeavour to effect some amelioration in these unnatural conditions of ordinary working existence. Hence, he conceived Saltaire! It has been well said that it is not in the erection of enormous piles of manufacturing premises, in filling them with the best machinery, and in providing habitations for the bulk of his work-people (all which were no more than necessary to the successful

issue of a mercantile enterprise), but it is the spirit in which all this was conceived and executed, which indicate the benevolence and public spirit of the founder of Saltaire. A single glance at the works, the approaches, the dwellings, or the public buildings which adorn the little town, will sufficiently indicate the munificence with which every detail has been conceived. Nothing is done by halves at Saltaire.

The "works," as such immense manufactories are generally called, altogether cover an area of ten acres, and are arranged in the form of a letter T. The top of the letter is represented by the massive façade, or south front of the mill, which is 550 feet in extent, being exactly the length of St. Paul's. This pile has six storeys, is seventy-two feet in height, and has a very commanding and beautiful appearance. Like all the other buildings, the factory is in the Italian style of architecture. The first four floors are divided, but the top room, which runs the whole length of the building, is one of the largest and longest in the world. The roof is of iron, the windows throughout the mill are large, and are formed of immense squares of plate glass. Ventilation is provided by flues in the walls for the admission of fresh air, and by other flues for the escape of the vitiated air. The main shafting moving the machinery is placed under the floor of the weaving-room, which is thus entirely without the giddy whirl of the gearing, and is comparatively free from dust. This arrangement was, we believe, first adopted at Saltaire. The main stem of the letter T is formed by the warehouses, which run northward from the centre of the great front line, and terminate at the canal, a length of 330 feet. There are seven floors in the warehouse, including the basement. At the top of the building there is a large cast-iron tank, capable of holding 70,000 gallons, which is supplied with water from the river by pumps. On either side of the warehouses the ground is occupied by extensive sheds, that on the eastern angle by the weaving shed (which will hold 1200 looms), and that on the western side designed for combing machines. These magnificent sheds are roofed with sloping skylights. On the western side are also rooms for sorting, washing, and drying wools, and for reeling and packing. Beneath is an enormous tank and filter, holding about 500,000 gallons of water, into which, through a number of conduits, the rain is carried, and, when filtered, applied to the processes of manufacture. At the western boundary of the works are situated the offices, presenting a handsome architectural frontage of 240 feet, facing the new road made by Mr. Salt, which commences at the Bingley turnpike road, crosses the railway, canal, and river by an immense iron bridge, and connects with other new roads which

have been constructed by him, leading in the direction of Baildon Green and Eldwick Glen.

Not the least prominent feature of the "works" is the chimney, which stands at the eastern corner of the factory, and rises to a height of 250 feet. It is 26 feet square at the base. The effect of this handsome chimney shaft is that of an Italian bell-tower or campanile. The smoke from about fifty tons of coal a day passes up this chimney, but as the boilers connected with it are fitted with smoke-burning apparatus, nothing but the thinnest vapour is allowed to be emitted. The engine-houses are situated on either side of the central entrance to the mill. The engines consist of four beam engines equal to 1800 horse-power, and other two engines of 600 horse-power propel the dyeworks, &c. Fourteen boilers on the tubular principle are connected with these engines, which turn shafting of about three miles in length. In the construction of the engine-beds alone about 2400 tons of solid stone were used. The boilers are supplied with water from the river, and when it has been used it is carried back again to the river. On the northern side of the works, between the canal and the river, and occupying the site of the old Dixon Mill, has been erected a detached spinning mill and dyeworks, with a chimney of novel design, and eastward are placed the gasworks, which are of great magnitude. Two large gasometers supply the works and the town with gas, for which the inhabitants are charged at the rate of 3s. 6d. per 1000 feet. A branch from the Midland Railway passes under the central arches of the south front, where there are hoists for loading and unloading trucks, and also for common waggons and canal boats at the north end of the warehouses.

In 1868, during the extension of the works on the north side, the iron bridge, which was constructed during the early progress of the works, was taken down, and set in a straight line with Victoria Road. This was an extensive undertaking. The massive stone buttresses were replaced by cast-iron cylinders, thus adding greatly to the beauty of the whole structure. The total length of this bridge is now 430 feet, the width being 31 feet. About the year 1871 other extensions, consisting of a wool shed capable of holding 12,000 bales of wool, were made on the eastern side of the works adjoining the railway, from which a branch line is laid, running under a projecting glass roof. Connected with it is a cask-store, for the storage of oil, soap, &c. A new engine-house adjoining the new mill has since been commenced.

The whole of the works thus described are constructed of stone, supplied by twenty quarries in the neighbourhood, and for extreme massiveness and solidity have no equal in this or any other country.

The architects were Messrs. Lockwood & Mawson, of Bradford, who by this achievement greatly increased their previous reputation. Mr. (now Sir) William Fairbairn, of Manchester, was the engineer. The contractors were very numerous, and among them may be named, for the mason work, Messrs. Fearnley & Wainwright, Messrs. Moulson Bros., Bradford, and Messrs. Hogg & Bedford, Leeds; for the wood work, Mr. Archibald Neill, Messrs. J. & W. Beanland, Mr. John Ives, and Mr. William Ives; Messrs. J. & J. Cliffe supplied the ironwork, and Mr. Charles Rhodes did the painting. Mr. Ingram Laphish held large contracts for the erection of the dwelling-houses.

In its present form this immense manufacturing concern gives employment to 3500 workpeople, and for their accommodation Sir Titus Salt has erected 800 dwelling-houses of various classes, covering an area of nearly twenty-six acres. These houses are occupied by 4500 persons. Besides the above, there are forty-two almshouses for the aged and infirm. The dwelling-houses are all of stone, are regularly and uniformly built, and, like the principal works, were erected from the designs of Messrs. Lockwood & Mawson, who have studied to provide them with conveniences requisite to the health and comfort of the inhabitants thereof. Each house contains a parlour or living room, kitchen or scullery, a pantry and cellar, and at the least three bed-rooms. Some of the dwellings are designed for larger families, and others for boarding-houses. Those dwellings fronting to the principal streets have small plots of ground allotted for gardens, which in summer present a very cheerful appearance. There are besides numerous shops specially constructed for business purposes. The streets, which are well paved and extremely clean, are all laid out in straight lines, and number twenty-five, besides the leading thoroughfares,—Victoria Road, Albert Road, Albert Terrace, and Gordon Terrace. These principal roads, it will be observed, are honoured by the names of the Queen and the late Prince Consort; the streets are named after members of Mr. Salt's own family. In addition to being well housed, the comfort, instruction, and amusement of the Saltaireites have been amply provided for. Baths, washhouses, excellent school-rooms, a magnificent literary institution, and handsome places of worship minister to their physical and moral welfare; and a park of fourteen acres, pleasantly sloping towards the River Aire, provides recreation and amusement for all.

As previously stated, the works at Saltaire were commenced in the autumn of 1851, and were opened on the 20th September, 1853, the fiftieth birthday of Mr. Titus Salt, on which occasion a grand banquet, attended by several members of Parliament and notabilities throughout

the county, took place at Saltaire. Not the least welcome were the workpeople of Mr. Salt, 2500 in number, who marched in procession from his numerous mills and places of business to the railway station at Bradford, whence they were conveyed by special train to the works. Another celebration took place on September 20, 1873, in honour of the seventieth birthday of Sir Titus Salt, and the completion of Saltaire, when 4200 workpeople were entertained at Crow Nest, near Halifax, the seat of Sir Titus.

Few towns of its dimensions can boast of either the number or diversified uniformity (if that be an allowable term) of its public buildings as Saltaire. The massive yet elegant factory, the graceful Italian church, the noble educational institute and school premises opposite, the chapels and schools, and the cheerful looking almshouses, all form a harmonious whole such as may be best described by the above term.

The erection of the Congregational Church at Saltaire, which was part of the original plan, was commenced in 1856, and completed in 1859. It was designed by Messrs. Lockwood & Mawson, the architects of Saltaire. The contractors for the masonry were Messrs. Moulson Bros., while Mr. John Ives executed the carving and woodwork. The church is situated between the railway and the canal, and in front of the offices at Saltaire. As a whole this church is stated to be the most exquisite example of pure Italian architecture in the kingdom. The principal front consists of a circular colonnade of Corinthian columns, detached from the building, above which rises a handsome pedestal, supporting a cupola and dome 130 feet in height. The interior is also novel in effect, being elaborately enriched by the decorator's art. The extreme length of the church is 140 feet, and the cost may be estimated at £16,000, the whole of which was defrayed by Sir Titus Salt. The tower of the church contains a chime of six bells and a clock with three dials. The present minister, the Rev. D. R. Cowan, of Kirkcaldy, was inducted on July 6, 1869. All the seats are free.

The family mausoleum, on the south side of the church, was erected in 1860, and contains the remains of Whitlam, Mary, and Fanny Salt, children of Sir Titus and Lady Salt. Also of Jane, the wife of Ed. Salt, Esq., of Ferniehurst, Baildon, who died in 1870. The mausoleum contains a beautiful full-length female figure emblematic of the Resurrection, in pure Italian marble, by Mr. Adams-Acton, of London. Other rare examples of tablet work adorn the walls.

The Sunday schools attached to this place of worship have hitherto been held in the Day School and Institute, but, with that elaborate

munificence which distinguishes the founder of this model town, a separate building has been reared, which contains distinctive features and appliances specially adapted for Sunday school teaching. The building stands upon a portion of the allotment gardens in front of the factory. The plan comprises an assembly-room, capable of seating 800, with lecture-room behind. The distinguishing feature, however, is the large number of class-rooms which are provided, there being no fewer than twenty-two, which are arranged in two storeys, all of them opening into and communicating with the assembly-room. Messrs. Lockwood & Mawson, of Bradford, were the architects, and the cost of the whole, inclusive of the value of the site, was about £10,000. These schools are, without exception, the finest buildings in the country, specially designed for the purpose of Sunday school instruction.

The Wesleyan Methodists have a handsome chapel at Saltaire, in the Italian style of architecture. The truly Christian spirit of the founder of Saltaire was evinced in his presenting the site of the edifice, worth £650. The cost of the whole, exclusive of the land, was about £5000, and on the occasion of laying the foundation-stone by Sir Titus Salt, in October, 1866, fully 1500 persons "partook of tea" in the Saltaire dining-hall. The new chapel was opened on February 7, 1868. It will accommodate about 800 persons.

The Primitive Methodists have also a handsome place of worship within the Saltaire estate, of which Sir Titus also generously gave the site. This building will seat 1000 worshippers, and cost upwards of £5000. Like the Wesleyan Chapel, it has a large school-room underneath.

The New Churchmen, or Swedenborgians, have a meeting-room where, in addition to holding converse, a flourishing Sunday school is taught. They are about 150 in number.

The Saltaire Literary Institute was established in December, 1854. Its operations, with a library of 3000 volumes, were transferred to the new Club and Institute on its completion in November, 1872. This is undoubtedly one of the finest buildings of its kind in the country. The palatial and beautifully proportioned façade at once arrests the attention of the visitor. The building, like the schools opposite, is thrown back some forty feet from the line of the street, the intervening ground, enclosed by ornamental railing, being tastefully laid out. The building was furnished at a cost of £25,000 by Sir Titus Salt, and is occupied by an elected committee at a nominal rent. The accommodation provided is as follows:—Reading-room, library, laboratory, chess and draught-rooms, smoking-room, billiard-room,

bagatelle-room, lecture hall, to seat 800, lecture theatre, to seat 200, school of art, various class-rooms, curator's house, gymnasium and rifle drill room, lavatories, &c. The constitution of the Institute is thoroughly liberal, and it is open to all who choose to avail themselves of its advantages. Everything that ingenuity can devise in the way of educational appliances and fittings has been provided with a lavish hand, and the library now contains 4384 volumes. The large hall is utilised for concerts, lectures, &c., and several rooms are allotted to societies not connected with the Institute, for which a small charge is made. The number of members of the Institute for 1875-6 was 510. The decorations in the interior of the building are of a style seldom attempted in this country, and reflect the greatest credit upon the architects, Messrs. Lockwood & Mawson, and in their execution also upon the late Mr. Henry Briggs, of Bradford. Mr. John Barry, of Scarborough, held the chief contract for this building.

The Saltaire Elementary Schools are situate about the centre of Victoria Road, and opposite the magnificent Club and Institute. Accommodation is here provided for 700 children. The schools were opened in May, 1868. Since the formation of the Shipley School Board these schools have been worked by that body; but under a scheme which Sir Titus has submitted to the Charity Commissioners he proposes to transfer the school buildings as an endowment to a governing body for the purposes of a boys' and girls' High School. A middle class school for girls has been in operation at Saltaire for some years.

The history of the four carved lions which grace the open spaces in front of the Institute and the schools is somewhat remarkable. They were first designed by the sculptor, Mr. Thomas Milnes, of London, for the base of the Nelson Column in Trafalgar Square, but for some unexplained reason the commission was transferred to Sir Edwin Landseer. Meanwhile the models attracted the notice of Sir Titus Salt, who had them removed to Saltaire, and placed in the positions named. These noble specimens represent Vigilance, Determination, Peace, and War. They have all been carefully modelled from animals in the Regent's Park Zoological Gardens, and it will not be denied that the artist has been faithfully true to nature in his work. The figures are eight feet in length, three feet wide, and eight feet high. The weight of each is nearly three tons.

Another marked feature of Saltaire is the Almshouses, forty-two in number, founded by Sir Titus Salt, "In grateful remembrance of God's undeserved goodness, and in hope of promoting the comfort of some who, in feebleness and necessity, may need a home." The

ensemble of these beautiful buildings is of the most pleasing description, and fitly accords with the remaining architectural features of Saltaire. In front are asphalted walks, green parterres and flower beds, and the interiors are fitted up by the owner with every necessary requirement for the purposes intended. The occupants of these almshouses may be either men or women, or either single, married, or widowed. In addition to the houses being free of rent, taxes, or cost of repairs, either of the freehold or furniture, there is a weekly allowance to each married almsman residing with his wife, of ten shillings, and each almsman or woman without wife or husband, of seven shillings and sixpence. The applicants are appointed by the founder during his life, and afterwards by trustees to be appointed. The almshouses were opened in September, 1868. An infirmary is attached for the dispensing of medicines.

By the completion of the Park, or recreation grounds, the grand design of the noble founder of Saltaire may be said to have been fulfilled. The grounds are not large, as in fact they did not need to be with an open country all round ; but they are prettily laid out, and free to the inhabitants or any one else. The Park, like the town, is sheltered by the finely-wooded hills of Baildon Bank, and westward the undulating and varied sky-line is most pleasing to the eye. The grounds cover about fourteen acres, and are so arranged that the tastes of all in the way of open-air amusement may be gratified. An area of five acres is devoted to a cricket ground, and on the level above a fine broad terrace runs the entire length of the Park from east to west. Pavilions, bowling-greens, croquet-lawns, approached by gracefully winding walks, the intervals being beautified by shrubs and flowers, are tastefully disposed about the Park, which in addition contains some fine trees. The river Aire, which sweeps gracefully past the Park at its lower level, has been considerably widened, to prevent inundation and to admit of safety in bathing. Two 32-pounder guns occupy a prominent position on the promenade, which were purchased from Government by Sir Titus Salt. From an inscription on each gun we learn the warlike career of these ancient pieces of ordnance. That nearest the entrance was selected for Portsmouth, 2nd Feb., 1811, and replaced in 1869, having fired 1085 rounds. It was used in the Russian war in the Baltic. Its companion was shipped first on board H.M.S. *Cæsar*, in April, 1805, and superannuated in 1869, after having fired 1449 rounds. Was at Trafalgar and Acre. On the opposite bank is the "port" and landing-stage for Saltaire, from which river craft of various sizes, from the "steamer" to the Indian canoe, laden with happy millworkers from Saltaire or Shipley, or shopmen and lasses out for the

day, make voyages to Hirst Mill and—back again. The Park was designed by Mr. William Gay, of Bradford, and was first opened to the public on July 25, 1871.

The number of trout in the river has been considerably increased of late by artificial hatching of ova in apparatus fitted up by Mr. Titus Salt, jun.

Opposite to the factory, and connected with it by an arched passage under the road, is the Dining-hall, an enormous room partitioned off into boxes on the coffee-room model, and having extensive kitchens in the rear. The design of this establishment provides that while the provisions are sold at the lowest possible rate the affair shall be self-supporting, and thus its frequenters will experience no loss of independence in patronising it. The advantages of the hall are open to the general public on the same terms as to those employed at the works.

The colony has also its Baths and Wash-houses, on an elaborate scale. A special building has been provided which is fitted up with the usual apparatus of coppers and tubs, wringing machines, &c. There are also warm, cold, and Turkish baths connected with it.

The Post Office, Savings Bank, and Telegraph Office is kept by Mr. G. H. Bayley, in Caroline Street. At the opposite corner of the street is the news and book shop, kept by Mr. Abraham Holroyd, the historian of Saltaire. Mr. Holroyd, although an old Bradford tradesman, may now be considered an "institution" of Saltaire. In addition to being a collector of the notabilia of the district, he is himself a dictionary of district antiquities, proverbs, and local history.

Saltaire is so prolific in institutions and societies of various kinds that we can only summarise them in one paragraph. Among these may be named the Saltaire Independent Co-operative Society, the Saltaire branch of the Leeds Co-operative Society, and the Saltaire Industrial Coal Society; the Horticultural and Pig Society; the Saltaire and Shipley Angling Association; the Saltaire Fire Brigade and Rifle Corps; the Cricket Club; the Saltaire Brass Band, String and Reed Band, and Glee and Madrigal Society; the Funeral Brief Society, Saltaire Men's Society, and Women's Society, for the relief of the sick.

Saltaire has not had a long, but it has had an eventful history. During the cumulative process which has brought the busy industrial town to its present status, much anxious care must have fallen to the lot of the chief promoter, notwithstanding the valuable assistance rendered by his architects, Messrs. Lockwood & Mawson. But his time and means have not been exclusively taken up with business

and the founding of Saltaire. He has filled many honourable positions with credit to himself and usefulness to the community. At the incorporation of the borough of Bradford he was elected senior alderman, and he served the office of Mayor in 1848-9. He was also one of the first borough magistrates, was afterwards placed on the Commission of the Peace, and was also Deputy-Lieutenant of the West Riding. In 1857 Mr. Salt was President of the Chamber of Commerce. In the same year his name was before the electors of Bradford, but he withdrew rather than divide the Liberal party. In 1859, however, his political friends again pressed him to stand, and he was duly returned with Mr. Wickham as member for Bradford. In 1861 he resigned that position, and resumed his commercial pursuits. In 1869, Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of a baronetcy—an act which met with universal favour. Sir Titus Salt's public gifts are well known. It has been estimated that he has in benefactions which have been publicly acknowledged, given away not less than half a million of money ! Many a struggling cause has been lifted out of its difficulties by the immediate help Sir Titus Salt has given to it, or indirectly by the stimulus to others which has resulted from his generosity, and his help has always been ready for the encouragement of whatever was good and useful.

During the past twenty years there have been many public manifestations of the esteem in which Sir Titus Salt is held by his own workpeople, and in August, 1874, Bradford did honour to itself as well as to Sir Titus, by erecting his statue in the centre of the town towards whose commercial status he had been such a noble contributor ; but it has been well remarked that after all, Saltaire will ever remain his noblest memorial.

Saltaire is pre-eminently an undertaking whose foundations were laid in Faith and Hope—faith in the stability of the Bradford trade, and hope in its future extension. That such a project should have emanated from the brain and efforts of one man is in itself a fact worthy of record, but that in its working out the ruling motive should not have been one of mere personal gain or ambition, but actuated by the loftiest patriotism, as is shown by the manifest consideration for the thousands of workpeople, speaks volumes for the head and heart of its founder. Long may he live, and long may Saltaire flourish !

Baildon is generally spoken of as one of the last places that were made. Whatever claim it may have to that peculiar distinction, it can at least boast of being one of the oldest villages “round about

Bradford." If any reliance may be placed on the following versified title-deed, Baildon formed part of a large breadth of land granted by William the Conqueror to Paul, Earl of Rawdon :—

" I William Kyng in the thurd yere of my reign
 give to thee Pauyln Roydon
 Hope and Hopetowne*
 with all the bounds both up and downe
 From Heven to Yearthe from Yearthe to Hell
 For thee and thyn ther to dwel
 as truly as the Kyng right is myn
 For a crossbow and an Harrow
 when I sal come to hunt on Yarrow†
 and in token that the thyng is sooth
 I bit the whyt wax with my tooth
 Before Meg. Maud. and Margery
 and my thurd sonne Henry

PAUYLN ROYDON
 WILLIAM."

Having crossed the Aire at Shipley, the first Baildon institution that meets the eye is the school built by Mr. Robert Bradley, who for thirty years has been engaged in tuition in the immediate neighbourhood. Opposite to it is Baildon Mill, formerly an old corn mill, and in which were stocks for cloth fulling. The old mill being destroyed by fire in 1854, large additions were made in rebuilding it, and machinery was introduced for the manufacture of goods for the Bradford market. Mr. C. F. Taylor was the first tenant, but the opening was very discouraging. Mr. Taylor commenced what was known by the name of the "two loom" system, but his workpeople being equally determined not to "mind" two looms, a very serious riot occurred. On September 29, 1856, 2000 operatives having assembled in front of the premises, the windows were smashed, attacks were made upon Mr. Taylor, and some of the workpeople were waylaid and illtreated, the end being that several were imprisoned, and the "two loom" system carried out. One part of the mill is still used as a corn mill, the other in the worsted manufacture. A little further on are the present extensive works of Messrs. C. F. Taylor & Co., where worsted manufacturing in every branch is carried on.

Before leaving the banks of the Aire, the first subject for speculation that arises is as to the particular spot where the river was forded in olden time. The probabilities are that there would be one some-

* There is a universal tradition among the inhabitants that Baildon was once called Hopetown. Hope Hill and Hope Farm are still known as such.

† "Yarrow" is understood to mean "Yorkshire."

where in the vicinity of the present bridge. One reason for this is that immediately the river is crossed we arrive at the foot of Cliffe Lane, undoubtedly one of the oldest British trackways in this part of the country, and which led to Baildon. Formerly there was a foot-road which was a nearer way to the village, leaving Cliffe Lane bottom, then through the wood by way of Temple Rhydding. At the Sessions held at Otley in 1780 an order was granted for diverting and practically closing this footpath, and also for closing Cliffe Lane as a public highway. In compensation the low road, passing round by Mr. C. Stead's and forward to Baildon by way of the Green was made by the township. In support of the assumption that Cliffe Lane is an ancient British trackway, it may be stated that in excavating for the drainage works in 1874 an old causeway was discovered several feet below the level of the road, and the direction taken was evidently towards a ford near the weir at Baildon Mill. At its outlet on Baildon Green top there was evidently a branch road to Hope Farm, traces of which can still be seen. Hope Farm-house is the oldest building in Baildon, and it is doubtful if there are any as old in the neighbourhood. Persons now living can remember extensive foundations in a paddock at the west end of Hope Farm, favouring the tradition that one of the old proprietors had formerly a residence here. Sandles Pond, which to the casual observer might seem to have been of natural formation, as well as an old road near at hand, were made at the instance of Major Meyers, who lived at Baildon Hall. Having a troop of Government cavalry billeted at the Hall, the Major employed the men and horses in making this pond and road, the road being conveyed to an eminence from whence the soldiers might be seen reviewed. It is still called Major Gate. Another approach to Baildon is the "new road," which was commenced about the year 1748, the inhabitants, several of whom had entered into the worsted business at that time, no doubt feeling how difficult it was to convey material up Cliffe Lane for the purpose of manufacturing.

Nowhere in the parish have greater strides been made within the last twenty-five years than in this part of Baildon. On the right of Cliffe Lane, adjoining Rangdale House, several handsome villas have been erected, the most notable being Ferniehurst, the residence of Edward Salt, Esq. This mansion, which stands in the wood, commands a fine view of the Aire valley. The grounds are beautifully laid out, and are both picturesque and secluded. A great specialty at Ferniehurst is the collection of orchids, which holds rank among the foremost collections in the country. Eight houses are devoted to their culture, and the commercial value of their contents is

very large. Cliffe Lodge, the residence of Mr. Bailey Blackburn, surrounded by ornamental grounds, also occupies a commanding position to the left of Cliffe Lane. At the foot of the hill, where there was a valuable spring of water, stands Wellfield, the little Moravian Chapel erected by the Brethren a few years ago. The site was given by Edward Salt, Esq. A day school and Sunday school are also held. On the opposite side of the road, where formerly a wood existed which had the reputation of being a covert for thieves, and was some years ago a very lonely spot, a considerable hamlet has sprung into existence, consisting of about four hundred houses. Amongst them a Mission Church has recently been built on land given by Abraham Maude, Esq., lord of the manor, in which a Sunday school is held, and service is conducted by lay preachers.

Ascending Temple Rhydding and Delph Head, we have a good view of what may be termed Baildon proper. Excepting a terrace of modern-built residences, the houses in the vicinity are built in a strangely higgledy-piggledy fashion—some pointing east, some north, in short, in as many ways as there are points in the compass, but scarcely any of them without a fine view out of some of the windows. At Lane Ends stands the house built by the late Mrs. Wharton, “t’ Baildon doctor” and bone-setter—a name well-known for miles around. By her great skill in the treatment of dislocated and broken limbs and kindred complaints, she acquired a repute which might have been envied by many of her presumably higher professional brethren. Her charity and good-neighbourliness were as well known in Baildon as her professional skill was appreciated outside. From her neighbours, whenever they required her assistance, she seldom took more than sixpence or a shilling; and if their circumstances were none of the best, she often not only returned her own fee, but gave something in addition. Mrs. Wharton was the daughter of John Mellor, wool-buyer for the Gills, of Tong Park, and married for her second husband, Henry Wharton, who came of a famous race of Westmoreland bone-setters. Under him she learnt her “profession,” and continued it until her death last year, at nearly eighty years of age. Previous to removing to Lane Ends, she resided at an old house in Northgate.

At Lane Ends we come in sight of Baildon Hall, but at the corner, where now stands a large house, formerly stood the Bowling Green Inn, the green being on the site now occupied by the Bay Horse Inn. The Hall is a very old one, but occupying low ground, it does not command a very extensive prospect. What style of architecture was originally adopted in its erection it is scarcely possible now to make

out, but from several stones in an outbuilding it appears that large additions were made in 1664 by Francis Bayldon. In the drawing-room over the mantel-piece are the initials F. B. and also a coat of arms. The ceiling of this room is full of devices, and there is some very old oak wainscoting, but it is entirely spoiled by being daubed over with nasty blue paint. The principal staircase is of black oak, highly polished, and is at present in splendid condition. The hall has been refronted within the last century, and is at present occupied by Mr. Charles Clegg as a farmhouse.

Who built Baildon Hall we have no means of ascertaining, for the records in possession of the present lord of the manor do not say; neither do they mention the date when Nicolas Stapleton, Knt., who is the first owner named in the court rolls, became lord of the manor. This, however, would doubtless be early in the fifteenth century, when Sir Nicolas Stapleton granted the manor of Baildon to his son, Sir Miles Stapleton, for the yearly rent of a red rose. How long Sir Miles enjoyed the manor for that nominal rent we know not. After a time it went to the Fitzwilliam family, probably through the female line of the Stapletons. In June, 1615, Gervas Fitzwilliam sold the manor to Walter Hawksworth, of Hawksworth, for the sum of £1300. Francis Baildon, having married a daughter of Sir Walter, became possessed of the manor in 1654. He appears to have made great improvements in the hall, and also in the outbuildings, but, being a Royalist, the property was taken from him and given back to the Hawksworths, they being Parliamentarians. The Hawksworths retained possession of the manor until December, 1704, when Sir Walter Hawksworth, Bart., sold it to Edward, Lucy, and Anthea, three younger children of Henry Thompson, of Eswick, who retained it until 1738, and then sold it to Francis Thompson, whose wife after his decease married William Meek, of Wighill. Anna Jane Thompson, a daughter by the first marriage, married Paul Meyers, on whose death she left her property (with it the manor of Baildon) to her half-brother, William Meek, of Wighill, on condition that he took the name of Meyers. This is the William Meek Meyers who suffered the extreme penalty of the law at York for shooting a sheriff's officer who had come to serve a writ upon him, but there is no doubt he was liable to fits of temporary insanity. His son William, after the death of his father, resumed the name of Thompson. This son was also of a very irritable temper, and at times acted like one bereft of reason, for on one occasion, when going the boundary of the manor, he loaded a brace of pistols, vowing he would shoot any one who should dare to oppose him. Dying without issue his sister, Anna

Jane Meyers, succeeded to the property, and took the name of Meek only. In 1849 the property was advertised to be sold, the late Mr. George Lister being the auctioneer. Mr. Bailey Blackburn, who had in 1844 bought the farm and land near the foot of Cliffe Lane, was the largest purchaser, securing the river land from Baildon Bridge to the stepping-stones which then existed across the river at Saltaire. The price was £5000. Subsequently Mr. Blackburn disposed of this land to Sir Titus Salt for £10,000, and Sir Titus added to it adjoining land purchased from the Rangdales and others. The late Mr. Maude bought the manorial rights, together with a large portion of the Baildon estate. At his death it became the property of the present owner, Abraham Maude, Esq., of Fleet House, near Skipton.

After this short digression, rendered necessary in order to trace the descent of the manor to the present time, we resume our round of the village, and in imagination pass along the old road which formerly skirted the rear of Baildon Hall. Thus we arrive at Low Baildon, where there are some very old houses, and among them Baildon House and Baildon Lodge, belonging to James Bent, Esq., and Thomas Lockley, Esq., but which formerly belonged to William Holden, Esq. The Holden family is one of the oldest in Baildon, and in their possession the above property had been since 1680. Holden or Boggard Lane, as it is now generally called, was the original road to Baildon, and on the site of the mansion owned by Dr. Lockley there formerly stood an inn. Two other roads of very old standing are near here, one of which leads direct to the ford at Buck Mill, and on to Idle. The other, called Slaughter Lane, runs through Kirklands, and probably went to a ford or ferry on the Aire, there being at present a foot-road which appears to be a continuation of the old road down to the banks of the river. Ascending Holden Lane, we pass the Vicarage, and arrive at Chapel Hill. This is probably the oldest portion of Baildon. The houses all belong to the Butler family, whose connection with Baildon can be traced for fully 200 years back. The family originally came from Ireland, and were descendants of the Earl of Ormond. No doubt they engaged in the manufacture of cloth, which was the principal trade of Baildon at that time, but some of the family must also have been connected with the worsted trade, for a member of the family was one of the first trustees of the Bradford old Piece Hall. None of the family, however, reside in Baildon, but they still retain their Baildon property. The house formerly occupied by them is now a farmhouse, and there is still an old lane that bears their name. One of the Butlers intermarried with the Beecrofts, of Kirkstall. Before entering the church,

we may just mention that there is an old house on Chapel Hill, at one time the principal hostelry in the village, at which most of the packhorses stopped when the route through Baildon was the only road to Otley, Ilkley, and other places northward. At present it is let for £3 per annum; such is the change that time has wrought even in Baildon.

Of the early history of the church very little is known, there being no records further back than 1627. It is generally supposed that a fire occurred about 1549, by which the vestry and all the records were destroyed. A stone over the vestry door bears that date. Mention is made by Stowe, of Baildon having a church in 1412. Mr. Heighton, writing to the Bounty Office in 1765, says, "The church, which was built in the twelfth century, was founded by Dame Alice Quintain, who endowed it with certain lands called Kirklands. These lands were sequestered in the reign of Queen Elizabeth (but Mr. Heighton does not say what for). The possessors in 1638 gave rent charges out of them to the chapel, on condition that they might enjoy them without molestation. At present the lands are of two kinds—those left by the Sunderlands and those purchased with the bounty money—the householders of Baildon enclosing so much of the common as was equivalent to £200, and by that means procured the bounty." About six acres were added to the church property when Gilstead Moor was enclosed, and in 1873, £142 was added to the living by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, making it worth £300 per annum. The living is in the gift of trustees, and in 1868 on a new trust-deed being framed, the following gentlemen were appointed, viz. :—James Bent, Esq., Dr. Lockley, Abraham Maude, Esq., Captain Maude, Edward Salt, Esq., and Messrs. Bailey Blackburn, Charles F. Walker, W. W. Holmes, and Richard Goldsborough.

The old church was very plain, both externally and internally, there being no stained windows, nor do there appear to have been many "notables" buried in it, for the only old tablet is one in memory of Major Paul Meyers, who served with the army in Germany, and was buried in 1743. There are some brass plates in the floor where the Holdens and Lamberts are buried, but they are not of very old date. The Butlers appear to have been interred in a vault just outside the church, the last buried in it being the late John Butler, Esq., of Kirkstall Forge, in 1826. Still there are some curious relics connected with the church, one in particular, which now stands on the south side of the churchyard, but which formerly stood in the porch. This consists of a square sandstone pillar, about three feet high, standing on a pedestal, upon which the sexton at the close of the service used in

former times to rest his hand, the people thereby knowing that something was to be "given out." When all the congregation had come out of the church and gathered round the pillar, he with a loud "Oh, yes! oh, yes!" cried "Lost, a cow," "Found, a horse," or whatever else there might be to "give out."

There are also some curious entries in the register, the following being some of them :—"Collections made during the year 1665, being the year of the plague. Edmund Moore, curate; John Mitten and William Bowling, churchwardens. Collected for the inhabitants of Stillingfleet, 4s.; collected for poor Henry Teale, on his own petition, the sum of 2s.; collected for poor John Hudson, upon petition, the sum of 3s. 6d.; collected for Mrs. Catherine Fitzgerald, wife of Mr. John Fitzgerald, and Mary Terril, wife of John Terril, living in the county of Cork, in Ireland, the sum of 2s.; collected in April, 1668, for Samuel Taylor, of Bingley, 5s. 9d., being a prisoner in York Castle." The oldest gravestone in the churchyard bears the date of 1671. But although there may not be much study for the epitaphist, still there is abundant testimony in the churchyard to bear out the statement that Baildon is one of the healthiest villages round Bradford, if we may judge by the longevity of the inhabitants. The following are selected from interments made in the present and last centuries:—Ann Hutchinson 106, Thomas Fairbank 94, Jane Milner 102, John Milner 93 (buried in Moravian burial-ground); James Rawnsley 88, Mary Rawnsley 73, Mark Rawnsley 84, all in one grave; John Renard 90, Hannah Walker 94, Thomas Mangham 97, William Lancaster 92, Sarah Whitaker 95, Thomas Steel 88, James Thompson 83, Grace Bentley 89, John Walsh 90, Hannah Murgatroyd 88, William Holdsworth 88, Samuel Bradley 81, Joseph Mann 82 (parish clerk and bellman sixty years). At his own request the old clerk was carried to his grave by six sons of his eldest daughter, the least of whom was 5 ft. 9 in. in height.

The old church being considered unsafe it was resolved to rebuild it, and on May 10th, 1847, the work of demolition was begun, but the task was not so easy as was expected, for gunpowder had to be used to blow down the old walls. In rebuilding, a large portion of the old material was used, which much lessened the cost. The reading-desk and the pulpit were made from the old black oak found in the old church; they are elaborately carved, and are fine specimens of workmanship. The interior of the church consists of a chancel and two aisles; the pews are of pine, and are made on the open principle, and with the exception of a few are unappropriated. There is a specific stipulation that 280 sittings must be free for ever. The church

will accommodate about 600 persons. The church being completed, it was consecrated by the Bishop of Ripon on February 29, 1848. A melancholy interest attached to the consecration services by the sudden death of the respected incumbent, the Rev. E. Hodgkinson, who, for a period of twenty-three years, had most devotedly discharged the duties of his office. His death took place within a few hours after the church, the uprearing of which he had carefully watched, was consecrated. The arrangement of the present edifice is quite the reverse of the old one, which was heavy and dull, while the present building is light and airy. Altogether this was considered one of the most complete specimens of effective restoration of a village church which had at that time been made in the neighbourhood. The architects were Messrs. Mallinson & Healey, of Bradford, and the entire cost was somewhat more than £1000. The east window, which was a gift of the parishioners, was of chaste geometrical pattern. This has recently been removed, and another put in its place by Edward Salt, Esq., in memory of his late wife. It is a most beautiful example of art in glass work. The figures represented are Faith, Hope, and Charity, and a more appropriate subject could not have been chosen, for the late Mrs. Salt was a faithful, hopeful, and charitable woman in every sense of the word. There is another smaller stained window in the east end, put in by the late Mrs. James Bent and the present Mrs. Lockley (Miss Lambert), in memory of John and Ann Lambert. It represents several incidents in the life of our Saviour, and is a fine specimen of workmanship. On the south side are two stained windows, the smaller one being presented by the late Thomas Butler, Esq., of Kirkstall Forge, a grandson of the above-named John Butler. It is of a rich geometrical pattern. The larger window is in memory of the Rev. John Chapman (a former incumbent of Baildon), his wife and son. It also represents incidents in the life of our Saviour. A new window has also been recently erected in memory of the late William Rand, Esq., by his sister, Mrs. Dodsworth. As before stated, there were not many tablets in the old church, but there are a few in the present one, the last one put up being in memory of the late Mrs. James Bent, who was christened, married, and buried in the church, and was greatly respected by the inhabitants of Baildon. The present vicar of Baildon, the Rev. Wm. Ffolliott, B.A., was instituted in 1869. Previous to that gentleman coming, the living was held by the Rev. Joseph Mitton, who died on July 30, 1868, at the age of sixty-one. Mr. Mitton held the incumbency for twenty years. His amiable disposition and fervent zeal, coupled with a gentle, affable bearing much endeared him to many of his parishioners.

The Church Day and Sunday Schools were built in 1849, and enlarged in 1871-3. The Church Mechanics' Institute is held in this building.

Leaving the church and descending Hall Cliffe we note the many better-class cottages which have been recently erected, especially in the direction of East Parade. A few more steps bring us to the centre of the village, but having taken a circuitous route we must retrace our steps to Lane Ends, and make the ascent to Baildon in the usual way by Browgate, or Braygit, as it is called by the inhabitants. The first building calling for notice is the fine new chapel built by the Primitive Methodists in 1864. This body first began to meet in a house in Celcliffe, or Keflicks, as it is commonly called. That was in 1821, and John Frankland, Samuel Ackroyd, and John Halliday were the founders. The early members had much persecution to endure, but they were very zealous in their work, and rapidly increased in numbers. The house becoming too small, a new chapel was commenced at Bank End, the first stone being laid by the Rev. Dr. Steadman, of Bradford. The cost of that chapel was £700, and it was opened in 1824. This chapel being in an out-of-the-way place and very bad to get to, especially in winter, the building was sold, and the first stone of a new chapel was laid in 1864, by Alderman Law, of Bradford. The site was given by Abraham Maude, Esq., lord of the manor, and the chapel cost about £2000. It is very high at one side, having cottages on the base, the Sunday school in the middle, and the chapel on a level with the road. The interior is tastefully painted, very comfortably pewed, and will hold about 600 persons. The Primitive Methodists are building another nice place of worship at Low Hill, which will cost £500 (the site of which was also given by the lord of the manor), and a few years since they opened a little school-chapel at Baildon Moorside. The last-named locality is closely associated with the unfortunate and fatal poaching affray which took place in 1861, when Smith, the keeper, was shot by James Waller. The latter was executed on January 4, 1862.

Passing up Browgate, strangers are surprised to find a deep gorge with houses at the bottom. This is Keflicks, and if the stream was a little clearer, and the vegetation a little brighter, it would need no great stretch of imagination for one to fancy himself looking upon some Swiss ravine. A little higher up is the Moravian Chapel, which stands on the site of an older building—a kind of knoll rising abruptly from the public road. The position is commanding, and the chapel, viewed from the opposite side, is a beautiful object. Baildon is one of the oldest and most prosperous of the

Moravian congregations, and still continues to increase. The Rev. John Cennick preached three times in Baildon about 1743, once in the barn at Lane Ends, in the barn at Baildon Hall, and under an old thorn at the stile near Robertshaw's house at Lower Baildon. He was one of those earnest Moravian workers, of whom there were so many at that time. The first room licensed for preaching, in May, 1749, was in the house of David Emmott, one of the Baildon masons who afterwards worked at Fulneck. The house was under the bank, near the Lane Ends, and the preachers were entertained by Joshua and Abigail Hartley, who lived at a farmhouse (since pulled down) near the new road to Shipley. The next preaching-room was in the middle of the village, generally supposed to be in the house occupied by Mr. Thomas Rhodes. The third station was at the house of Joseph and Hannah Loble, in Westgate. In 1780 the Rev. Mr. Grundy commenced a day-school in a small building which also served as the preaching-room. In this room the Brethren continued to hold the day-school and preachings till 1806, in which year a new chapel was built and opened on September 24th, but it was not until April 24th, 1816, that a regular congregation was formed, during the ministry of the Rev. Ralph Shufflebotham. Previously the station had been attached to Fulneck. The congregation still increasing, in 1867 it was resolved to pull the old chapel down and to enlarge it, and on March 11, 1868, the present beautiful chapel was opened, the Rev. William Robbins being then minister. The cost of the chapel (not including the organ) was £1350. The Rev. Mr. Hines is the present resident minister.

At the top of Browgate is the Mechanics' Institute, which was built in 1862 at a cost of £2000, the capital being raised in shares of £1 each. It is let by the shareholders to the committee of the Mechanics' Institute. In this building are the offices of the Local Board, the assistant overseer, and the School Board. The Baildon Industrial Co-operative Society occupy one of the shops in the lower portion, and do a flourishing business. At the top of the building is a clock which was erected by subscription, and cost about £120, the shareholders waiving for ever any right to it.

Near to the Institute stands a beautiful water fountain, erected by Baron Amphlett, of Wychbold Hall, Somerset, and Mrs. Amphlett, in memory of Mrs. Ferrand, of St. Ives, mother of the latter. The fountain bears the following inscription:—"In memory of Frances, widow of Edward Ferrand, Esq., of St. Ives, and daughter of William Holden, Esq., of this place. This fountain was erected and presented to the inhabitants of Baildon by Richard Paul Amphlett, Esq., and Frances,

his wife, in memory of her mother." The fountain, after completion, was formally handed over to the Local Board, who promised to supply it with water—a promise more honoured in the breach than in the observance. Close by stands the old cross which was erected by some of the Butler family, but at what date and for what purpose is not known. It is said that Baildon had a market even before Otley, and that it was held at the cross. Around the cross stood several trees, the brook, which is now covered, being then open and running down the village street. No doubt it would be a favourite gossiping resort of the villagers. The old cross is crowned by a gas-lamp, the gift of the late Mr. Thomas Butler. Near here, until recently, also stood the village stocks.

Turning up Westgate we come to what may be called the old manufacturing part of Baildon, that is, when nothing but cloth was manufactured in it. The family of the Renards reside near here. They came from France in 1680, and first settled at Fewston, where they commenced the manufacture of linen. Very soon one of them came to Baildon, and was apprenticed to the cloth business, and this was carried on by the family until Baildon ceased to be a cloth manufacturing village. They have also occupied one farm near 200 years. The oldest cloth manufacturers in the village, however, were the Brooks, who can trace their connection with it more than 300 years. Many of this family still reside in Baildon. In Westgate also reside the Amblers and the Goldsbroughs, the latter the oldest family in Baildon, being able to trace their descent from the Conquest. They were, in conjunction with Mr. Thomas Fairbank, about the first to start the worsted business, being quickly followed by Mr. W. Holmes and others, the principal make being shalloons and wildbores. About 1788 throstle spinning was introduced, and as the worsted trade in the neighbourhood extended, and other makes came in fashion, Baildon was not behind any of its neighbours, either in skill or ingenuity. Looms could be heard going click-a-ta-clack all over the village, and every description of goods, such as dobbies, calimancoes, camlets, plaids, &c., suitable for the Bradford market, were made. As time sped on and the manufacture of the above-named goods was done by power, the hand-loom weavers had to turn their attention to other goods. About this time Mr. Titus Salt and the late Mr. Christopher Waud commenced the moreen trade, and large numbers obtained employment. For several years they were kept fully engaged in the above-named branch, but machinery being also introduced to weave this class of goods, hand-weaving seemed as though it had received its *coup de grace*. Not so, however, for after remaining quiet a few years,

it revived, and was as brisk, if not brisker, than ever. But this was very short lived, for machinery was soon introduced for weaving tweeds, and wages were much reduced. Those who had left power-loom weaving returned to it again, and hand-loom weavers in Baildon are now as scarce as woolcombers are in Bradford.

A little higher up Westgate is the Old Hall, as it is called. This is supposed to have been built by Francis Bayldon, who afterwards sold to the Butlers. It then came into the Hollings family, one of the Hollings marrying a Miss Butler. Most part of the hall was re-built in 1715, a stone over each entrance, with the initials J. B., 1715, indicating that fact. It is the property of Mr. Thomas Hollings, and is now occupied by Mr. Francis Goldsbrough as a farmhouse. Another family, however, named Stead, claimed this property, but there does not appear to have been any litigation about it. Westgate was once the favourite resort of Guytrash Padfoot and the White Woman. It was here they held high court, disturbing and frightening the peaceable inhabitants with their antics. Binns's Well was also another favourite resort, but as there are now a few gaslights in Westgate, Guytrash Padfoot and the White Woman have not been seen or heard for a long time. There are Guys left, however, more troublesome than Guytrashes, but it is satisfactory to record that their numbers are decreasing rather than otherwise.

In Westgate, there was a school built by public subscription in 1815, with an inscription stating that it was to be a public school for ever, under the control of the Wesleyans, to be free alike to teachers and scholars of all denominations; but the Wesleyans have had it entirely to themselves a great many years. It is now made into cottages. Close to this school stands the Wesleyan Chapel, which was built in 1808, at a cost of £800. The opening sermons were preached by the Rev. Joseph Womersley, and on that occasion a serious panic occurred. One of the pillars of the gallery not having been properly fixed into the socket, the weight from the crowded gallery forced the pillar into the socket with a loud crash. The people were panic-stricken, and in spite of all assurance to the contrary, imagined the chapel was going to fall. The result was a regular scramble, but, with the exception of a few bruises, no one was much hurt. The Wesleyans have also a very commodious building, in which a Sunday school and a day school are held. The Wesleyans are the oldest Dissenting body in Baildon. About 1740 the first meetings were held in a house in Browgate; then a little chapel was built in Binns's Well Fold (now made into two cottages), and as the congregation increased the present one was built. In William

Darney's celebrated doggerel lines, descriptive of the earliest seats of Methodism, we learn that—

"In Windall and in Baildon Town
Thy children simple be."

Mention is also made of Baildon by John Nelson, who, writing to John Wesley in 1750, refers to the death of one who had been a member for three years.

Coming down Westgate, and turning up Northgate, we arrive at Baildon Mill, which was built by the late Mr. F. W. Holmes, who carried on a large business, principally in spinning yarn for the manufacturers of Norwich, Kidderminster, and Glasgow, but being unfortunate, the business was thrown into Chancery, where it remained a long time. The mill was bought in 1835, and the business carried on by the Baildon Joint Stock Company (James Trees and others), who did not run it long. After standing some time, the late Mr. W. Schofield bought it, and ran it up to 1845, when it was let to Messrs. Clapham & Whitaker, in whose occupation it remained until 1856, when it was again sold, the purchasers being Messrs. T. and W. W. Holmes, who have added a large weaving shed, and carry on a successful business.

And now we are upon Baildon Moor. How often is it traversed by those who know not of its ancient associations! How seldom does the thought take full hold even of those who do know that it has been traversed, and to some extent inhabited, by a people of whom we have no recorded history—who were antecedent to the Romans, or, if conjecture be worth anything, even by a race who were coeval with the "cave period" in Great Britain. On the precincts of Baildon Moor we are tempted to pause awhile, for we are on hallowed ground.

"Ancestral dust reposes 'neath the sod :
Lawgivers—warriors—priests—the ancient great—
The founders of Britannia's high estate."

Into the character and habits of these primordial inhabitants of a bygone age we cannot inquire. Unmistakable evidences and relics, however, now exist in connection with Baildon Moor, which carry us back to the ancient Britons, who worshipped on high places and in deep groves—who adored the God of Nature, and rendered Him praise on the yearly succession of seasons—and whose civil government called forth the sacrifice of victims.

Baildon Moor consists of an extensive tract of high land, rising in three successive ledges or ridges, the highest of which is 925 feet above sea level, and is called the "High Plain." From this natural terrace most extensive views of the surrounding country can be

obtained. Such a site was not likely to be overlooked as a place whereon to erect an altar to their principal deity, by those tribes who roamed over the district in which it was situate. As might be expected, therefore, it bears traces of this early occupation. There have been extensive earthworks, principally on the north-west side of the High Plain, but at present these cannot be properly defined, as they have been so much defaced. These are interspersed with cairns and barrows, and there are individuals living in Baildon at present who can remember them to have been from four to five feet in height and eight or ten feet in diameter at the base. Mr. Wardell, the antiquarian, who has made considerable researches into the subject, says :—" I do not remember having seen any other earthworks of this description, but to comprehend them properly the reader is referred to the Ordnance maps, and especially those annexed to the *Archæological Journal*, vol. ii. p. 107, where they are most carefully laid down." The adjacent district abounds with vestiges of numerous cairns and barrows, where in all probability repose the ashes of the priests connected with the place, or of those chiefs or heads of tribes who would naturally desire, and had power to obtain, interment near to the sacred place. Several of these places of ancient sepulture may be easily distinguished by their present names—Howden Wood, Acre How, Rerehowe Cross—the latter many of the inhabitants can remember, and point out the exact spot where it stood, and no doubt could find some of the stones of which it was composed. It was destroyed by one of the overseers, and a large portion of it used for fence stones, which strengthens the supposition that the high altar which stood on the High Plain shared the same fate. Whether this cross was of the earliest period or of more recent date there is no means of ascertaining. The village tradition is that it was put up in commemoration of a great battle that was fought on the moor. On the crest of Pennythorn Hill there is a circular earthwork fifty feet in diameter, but it is now so much defaced that it can scarcely be made out.

Two of these ancient depositories of the dead have undergone a careful examination, the results of which are contained in the *Archæologia* before referred to. The first excavation was made near to the centre of a circle composed of earth and stones, measuring fifty feet in diameter. After removing several layers of earth and boulders, at the depth of two feet from the surface there was found, in connection with the remains of a fire, a rude urn somewhat in the shape of a bowl, twelve inches in diameter and about ten inches in depth. On the upper part were incised lines crossing each other at right angles. It was in

an upright position, and filled with calcined bones, ashes, and charcoal. Some of the bones were very perfect, and on being submitted to medical inspection were pronounced to be those of a young subject from nine to thirteen years of age. The next examination was made in an earthwork of very peculiar character, situate on the north side of the Bingley road, which crosses the moor. It consisted of the same material, and was of the same dimensions as the first, but on the east and south sides thereof it was bounded by a well-defined entrenchment in the form of an angle, or the corner of a parallelogram. Within the circle (although it had been previously disturbed) were found ashes, burnt bones, and charcoal, together with a broken urn. At a short distance from these remains, and at a depth of two feet from the surface, was found another urn, which, when entire, would be about seven inches in diameter, and about nine or ten inches in depth. It was in an inverted position, ornamented with zigzag lines, and contained similar remains to the other, among which was a flint arrowhead, one and a half inches in length, and rather more than half an inch broad. "I do not recollect (says Mr. Wardell) ever seeing an earthwork of so singular a character as this. It was doubtless the place of sepulture of some family of consequence in their day and generation—perhaps of the high priest of the district." Another examination was afterwards made of a cairn by two visitors, when a small quantity of ashes, calcined bones, and charcoal were found, among which was a small earthenware urn, reddened by the action of fire. It was very much broken, and when entire would have been about four inches in diameter at the top and about eight inches in depth.

Referring to one of the strange monuments of ancient art on the moor, an eminent geologist and antiquarian of our own neighbourhood says:—"Walking over Baildon Moor we fell in with a regular horse-shoe mound, eight feet in diameter, and in the centre a sandstone block about six feet high, rudely squared and placed upright. That was all. But who were the masons? Not the Saxons or Romans; not the Druids, to whom we so often attribute every strange object we can assign to no other race. These stones, and a thousand others all over Northern Europe, were placed by a people whose very name has perished. A people who used weapons of flint, who dwelt in caves at a time when the Irish elk and the cave-bear and hyæna and the woolly rhinoceros inhabited the British Isles, who were exterminated by a people who came by sea, with metal weapons in their hands. Such are the stray hints which geologists and antiquarians have been able to glean respecting these so-called Druidical circles." The same authority, referring to the shallow "bell-pits" which are to be found

on the moor, doubts whether they are of Druidical origin. In his opinion they are simply abandoned coal-workings.

But we must leave this interesting and speculative subject and pursue our ramble. Before descending, however, we let imagination take its full flight, and accepting the traditional theory of Baal worship, see in the grey dawn the sacrificial procession approaching, preceded by the high priest with flowing beard and clad in his robes of office. The sacred enclosure reached, every eye is turned to the east, to catch the first appearance of the rising sun. It is an awful moment. We hear the piercing cries of the victim, the exulting shouts of the priesthood, and——something very like the sound of a railway whistle ! It is nothing else. Our imaginative flight is soon over, and we are reminded that *we* at least live in different times ! Almost at our feet is the row of targets belonging to the 3rd West York Rifle Volunteers, where 1000 yards' clear range can be had. Who knows but these Young Britons, in teaching the "young idea how to shoot," may leave traces and relics which a thousand years hence will furnish material for speculation, as we are discussing the manners and customs of the Ancients now ? On the level part of the moor are situated the reservoirs that supply the present inhabitants with water. Immediately on the establishment of the Local Board, in 1852, steps were taken to obtain a supply of water, and since that time the Local Board has expended in water supply, gas lamps, drainage and other improvements about £12,000. The water is very soft and of first-class quality. There are also a number of wells in Baildon, the waters of which are extremely soft and clear, and which take the names of their founders—as Binns', Frank's, Abraham's, Joe's, &c.

Descending the western side of the hill, we next come to an old farm-house called Dobrudden, and if fresh air has had its natural effect we shall be in capital order for a bowl of really prime milk and a home made cake, which may here be had. This is also called the Cock-walk farm, in consequence of there being a large number of game cocks kept, and a cock-pit as well. It belonged to one of the squires who lived at the hall. On the south side of the moor is Hope Farm-house, which, as before stated, is the oldest house in Baildon. Coming still down the moor we come to Braken Hall Green, where, no doubt, if search were made, many interesting remains of old Baildon could be found. There is here a very old farm-house now occupied by Mr. Thomas Walker, the occupants of which can be traced back more than three hundred years. Passing Braken Hall Green, and on Trench Lane, there are two more farm-houses which are very old ones, as is also the farm-house now occupied by Mr. John

Steel, the door of which is a curiosity in itself, as well as the bar and the other things used for fastening it.

And now we come to Shipley Glen, as it is wrongfully called, no part of the glen being within a mile of any part of the township of Shipley. Twenty-five years ago Shipley Glen was a *terra incognita*—at all events only a newly-discovered spot to any but those living near, and so little did the residents of the immediate neighbourhood a few years ago know the whereabouts of “Shipley Glen,” that if inquired for by that name the visitor would get no information. The proper name is Braken Hall Green, and it is in the township of Baildon. The “Glen” is now a famous resort in the spring and summer months, and it is as much an “institution” of Bradford life as Greenwich is of metropolitan. Not a few persons will be interested in the question—How can the Glen be preserved to the public as a breathing-place for ever? At present it is common land, but would fall to the lot of some adjoining freeholder if enclosed. Near at hand is an old house called the British Temperance Hotel, which is a curiosity in itself, containing as it does as much oak as would build a small ship. The roof is formed like a charcoal burner’s stack. It is worth a journey to see this old place and its surroundings before such old-world structures are swept away by modern Goths and Vandals.

Leaving the Glen by way of the wood and Thompson Lane, we pass the beautiful park which Sir Titus Salt has made for his work-people and the inhabitants of Saltaire, and which is also in the township of Baildon. Passing on still further we come to Baildon Green. Here are the engineering works of Messrs. Brearley, who occupy one portion of the mill, the other being occupied by Messrs. Cyrus Brooke and Co., worsted manufacturers, of Halifax and Baildon. The spiritual wants of the people are here well cared for, there being a Wesleyan Chapel, Christian Brethren Chapel, and a mission church, in which Sunday schools and services are held, and at the mission church there is a day school for infants which is well attended. At the bottom of the Green is a new house where formerly stood the home of the Fairbanks for close upon 200 years. This family came from Burley-in-Wharfedale. Thomas Fairbank, noted above as dying at the age of ninety-four, lived here. He learned the cloth manufacturing business at Windhill with Joshua Greenwood, to whom he was bound apprentice in 1741, and served seven years for a shilling a year. He was afterwards known as one of the earliest worsted manufacturers in the district. He was accustomed to attend Haworth Church during the time Mr. Grimshaw was minister, and was so regular in his attendance that he has been known to miss only two Sundays during

a whole year. The next Thomas Fairbank lived and died here at the age of seventy-three. A succeeding Thomas Fairbank also lived here until about a dozen years ago. About that time Sir Titus Salt bought the homestead and farm from Mr. Ferrand, of St. Ives, Bingley. Sir Titus afterwards sold it to Mr. Charles Stead, whose residence, called "The Knoll," is close by. "Tommy" was the family name of the Fairbanks, and no less than three of that name lived at the homestead at one time. The wood through which Mr. Stead's coach-road runs had been so long occupied by Tommy Fairbanks that it was called "Tommy Wood," and is so called yet by the older inhabitants. The Fairbanks, after leaving the Green, bought from Admiral Duncombe a small farm on Wrose Hill Side, and removed thither. The last-named Thomas Fairbank died December 1, 1874, aged 76.

The following were some of the old families at Baildon Green, viz., the Jowetts, who once occupied the thatched house at the bottom of the Green; the Murgatroyds, some of whose family still live in the immediate vicinity; and the Taylors, who followed the cloth business until it was superseded by worsted. John Brearley, who established the engineering business here, came from the neighbourhood of Heaton. He was considered a genius in his time.

Near the wood church on the Green there is a stone which for generations has been called Early Stone or Hurly Stone. Many a merry night have the young men of this district had in the neighbourhood of this stone before the rural police were called into existence. About Whit-Saturday night and Baildon Feast Saturday night it was very common to have what the young people called a "sale." Their way of proceeding was, as soon as people had got to bed to fetch all the movables in the vicinity, such as carts, gates, mops, besoms, bowls, &c., and often a few pairs of worsted looms. The looms would be set up in a working position, and the carts and other materials were arranged so as to form a fold, when the roysterers would drive all the donkeys on the common into this enclosure, fasten them up, and go home to bed. The outcry in the morning may be imagined. Persons who had lost live or dead stock generally made the best of it, and after "awning their awn," got them home as best they could. These "sales," as they were called, were always in the neighbourhood of the "early stone." Query: Did the stone get its name from this "early" practical joking? To the west of the wood church there is a large quantity of dross or cinders, which have become overgrown, probably the refuse of iron smelting at some remote period. The bridge over the ditch here is called Cinder Hill Brigstone.

Leaving Baildon Green and passing on Green Lane, great improvements are visible, for there is quite a little town springing up, consisting of villas and better class artisans' dwellings. Passing on again to Baildon Wood Bottom, we come to the commencement of the turnpike road to Otley, which we traversed for a short distance at the beginning of our ramble. The road was begun in 1824 and opened in 1825, but for several years no signs of improvement were visible. The most striking object that now meets the eye is the huge viaduct for the new branch line of railway that the Midland Company are making from Shipley to Guiseley, and which, when completed, will greatly shorten the route to Ilkley, and no doubt be a great boon to the inhabitants of Baildon. Close to the railway bridge is a Wesleyan chapel, the expense of building which was principally borne by Edward Holden, Esq. The cost, together with that of the Sunday school which is built close by, amounted to £3000. A little further on is the Airedale Cemetery, which contains three acres, and is very tastefully laid out. It belongs to a limited liability company, and the capital was raised in shares of £10 each. The whole cost, including the mortuary chapel, was £2500.

Here we have arrived at Charlestown, which has sprung up since 1830. The first house erected was a beerhouse built by Mr. Charles Thompson. A great many cottages were built some time after, and the inhabitants assembled to give the new district a name. Mr. David Normington being the oldest person present, was selected to christen it, and he at once said, "As Charles Thompson built the first house, I shall christen it Charlestown." Since then rapid strides have been made, rows of cottages have sprung up, shops have been erected, and now it is quite a little village in itself, with every prospect of greater improvement, as it will be very near to the Baildon Railway Station. There is a small Baptist Chapel, built in 1854, in which a Sunday school and services are held, both of which are well attended. Kirklands, the late residence of William Rand, Esq., was rebuilt by him and left at his death to his sister, Mrs. Dodsworth. A little further on is St. James's Mission Church, a branch from Baildon Church. Near the foot of Hollings Hill are the extensive works of Messrs. W. Denby & Sons, at Tong Park, so called from its having been once a deer park when the Hawksworths, of Hawksworth Hall, were lords of the manor of Baildon. The original name of this factory is Gill Mill, and it is the oldest in the neighbourhood, having been first used for the woollen manufacture by Messrs. Halliday & Watson, about 1778. It continued as a woollen mill until 1790, when a Mr. Cockshott commenced worsted spinning, and had an engine put up

so that it could be worked when water was scarce. It is said this was the first engine used for propelling machinery either in Bradford or the neighbourhood. In 1804 the mill became the joint property of Messrs. Samuel Margerison and Thos. Gill, and in 1824 was purchased by Mr. Gill, who set a combing machine to work. The mania for machinery-breaking being very prevalent about that time, a rumour was circulated that a mob was coming from Greenholme (Burley) to Gill Mill. Mr. Gill, with characteristic forethought, despatched a messenger to Addingham for military assistance, and its prompt arrival no doubt prevented a very serious riot from taking place. The business of worsted manufacture was carried on by the Messrs. Gill a long time, and after remaining unoccupied several years, Gill Mill was purchased by Messrs. Wm. Denby and Sons, who have made very large additions to the works, have built a large number of cottages for the workpeople, a chapel and school, a co-operative store, and have also made numerous other improvements.

Among the well-known characters of old Baildon may be named John and Jane Milner, who were not only remarkable for their long age but for their domestic happiness and Christian piety. For many years they had been members of the Moravian Church at Baildon, and were always in their places, so long as they could walk there. Jenny was the first to pay that debt which all must pay, being in her 103rd year, and John died in his 93rd. They are both interred in one grave in the Moravian Burial Ground, where a stone marks their resting-place. Hannah Murgatroyd lived at Baildon Green, and, like Jenny Milner, had a most remarkable memory, for she could give the whole history of Baildon Green with a clearness that was truly surprising. She lived to be eighty-eight, and retained her faculties to the last. Poor old Renard (the "fox" as he called himself) from being one of the cleanest little fellows in the village, became one of the greatest loafers, and for many years never slept in a bed. George Bentley was a man of a different character, and was very remarkable for the interest he took in education, both on Sundays and week nights. He was the first who started a Sunday school in connection with Baildon Church, and taught a night school in the old edifice. There are several in Baildon at present holding places of responsibility who owe their education to him. It was a pleasing sight to see the old man on Sundays, when the room in which he held the school became too small, arrange his scholars in classes in his "fold" and teach them in the open air. All this he did without remuneration. He also took a very prominent part in the repeal of the Corn Laws. Of men of a superior order, mention may be made of the Rev. Joseph

Sutcliffe, M.A., the eminent Wesleyan minister and commentator, who lived at Baildon.

Baildon has recently lost one of its best-known inhabitants by the death of Mr. James Steel, surgeon. Mr. Steel was born at an old farmhouse on Baildon Green, in 1811, and at the age of fifteen was apprenticed to Dr. Campbell, of Ashton-under-Lyne, with whom he stayed until he was twenty-one, when, having qualified, he returned to his native place. Here he commenced practising, and so continued up to his death in 1875, his professional career having thus extended over a period of thirty-nine years. Mr. Steel was a practitioner of the real village type—skilful, affable, jocular, and possessing a rare fund of village lore. His reputation extended for miles around.

That the general demeanour of the people of Baildon has greatly improved, any one who has known the village in years gone by will readily acknowledge. The visitor may, as of yore, see a large number of idlers standing at the “nuke,” as it is called, but he will not have to undergo a running fire of jests as formerly, especially if his dress had been thought rather peculiar. Neither at the Feast is there that amount of antipathy displayed to the inhabitants of other villages, nor the frequent fights between Baildoners and visitors. Nor has the moor been so infested with gamblers since the last raid was made, and Earby Dick and a few more were sent to durance vile. Previous to that raid Baildon Moor was on Sundays the common centre or “school” for gamblers from all points of the compass, varying in age from fourteen to sixty and even upwards.

Commercially, Baildon has perhaps not made as much progress as other neighbouring villages, but, despite some natural disadvantages, it has increased and is increasing in population and material wealth, while a corresponding improvement is taking place in its social condition. Much yet remains that requires improvement. The Local Board, notwithstanding the prejudice of the older inhabitants, and the opposition of others to “spending” brass, have effected some valuable improvements, especially in reference to sewerage and water supply; but there yet remain many nuisances that need removal. The village was first lighted with gas in 1867. In 1801 the population of Baildon comprised 1719 persons. In 1861 the population had increased to 3789, and in 1871 to 4778; at present it cannot be less than 5000. The rateable value in 1801 was £4724, in 1868 £9066 8s. 6d., and in 1874 it had risen to £14,525 12s. 2d. It will thus be seen that the township has increased in rateable value since 1801 £9801, of which £5459 has been added within the last six years.

FIFTH DISTRICT.

ECCLESHILL—IDLE—WINDHILL—WROSE—
THACKLEY.

ECCLESHILL occupies a commanding position about two miles north of Bradford, and includes the hamlets of Apperley Bridge, Fagley, Greengates, and part of Undercliffe. Two derivations of the name may be given, but we have little beyond conjecture to advance in their support. From the circumstance that the whole of the hill brow on which the village is built was once covered with a forest that reached as far as the old church at Bradford, it is supposed that the place was formerly called Eagle's Hill. Another rendering, for which we have some authority, is that Eccleshill is the "hill of the *ecclesia*," or church, usually the cathedral church of the diocese. This may be cited as the invariable origin of "Eccles" when forming part of the name of any place. The word probably signifies that either the dean and chapter, or the bishop, was owner of the property of the place so named. Accepting this interpretation, there is abundant scope for the antiquarian to trace the descent of the glebe land of Eccleshill to its more recent owners.

Some singular customs attach to Eccleshill, owing to its exceptional position—parochial, manorial, and ecclesiastical. The manor of Eccleshill was at the time of the Domesday Survey, under the name of "Eglechil," included in the soke of Wakefield, and to the manor of Wakefield it yet belongs. Formerly freeholders and copyholders within the constabulary of Eccleshill were required to appear yearly before the Court Leet at Wakefield, and there were also appointed the bellman, pinder, and constable, which officers now attend Wakefield Leet as representatives of the township. Eccleshill has also its own inspector of weights and measures, who is appointed by the Court Leet at Wakefield. Mr. Julius Dalby, of Eccleshill, for many years held this office, but the Local Board are wishful to have it abolished, preferring to be weighed and measured by the Riding official. After the Conquest, William granted to his relative, the powerful Earl Warren, among other possessions, Wakefield with its nine berewics or dependent manors, and also Dewsbury. By sub-infeudation Eccleshill became a mesne manor within the liberty of Wakefield, and passed from Thomas de Sheffield to the Thornours,

and afterwards to the Hirds of Apperley Lane. Mrs. Hird, of Apperley, was lady of the manor in 1780, being succeeded by her son Nathaniel (who died unmarried) and her two daughters. These ladies, as devisees under the will of their father, Chris. Hird, Esq., in 1825 sold the manor to Jeremiah Rawson, Esq., in whose family (the Rawsons, of Halifax) the manorship now vests.

In very early times, however, while still attached to the fee of the Earls Warren, some arrangement took place whereby Eccleshill formed part of the parish of Bradford, but a sum was paid to Dewsbury Church, as a compensation or *modus* for the tithes of the township, which had been vested by the Earls Warren in that ancient mother church. Thus, in the endowment deed of Dewsbury Church, dated 1349, are the words :—"Decimæ et portiones Garbarum de Eccleshill, Halifax, Huddersfield, Almondbury," &c., the tithe of Eccleshill being put down at the yearly value of £1 9s. 3¼d. The ecclesiastical dependence of Eccleshill upon Dewsbury is clearly established as of long standing, but as to its origin the popular notion is very vague. One of the oldest village traditions is that some former inhabitants stoned to death a "parson," probably a monk, who, in his mission of rebuking sin, paid periodical visits to Eccleshill. The story goes that thereupon all the adjoining parishes repudiated connection with it, and that the inhabitants, being virtually excommunicated in the gross, were allowed to regain parochial rights on the principle of the scapegoat. A sheep being set at liberty and allowed to take its own course, terminated its self-selected wanderings at Dewsbury, to which parish Eccleshill was thenceforward adjudged to belong. For convenience sake, however, it was permitted to count as part of the parish of Bradford, the latter place paying an annual acknowledgment to Dewsbury. Even yet it is not unusual to hear the phrase, "Eccleshill-Dewsberians." The scene of the murder of the clergyman is said to have been between the site of the present Mechanics' Institute and the Town-gate, and this portion is still called "Stoney Loin." We believe an annual sum of 8s. is yet paid by the Vicar of Bradford to Dewsbury Church on account of Eccleshill. How long Eccleshill has formed part of Bradford parish is uncertain, but in 1680 it contributed towards a church-rate for Bradford Church.

One peculiarity about the parochial relations of Eccleshill is, that previous to 1869 its poor's affairs were administered under the provisions of Gilbert's Act, which Act amalgamated into unions detached townships and parishes, such places nevertheless managing their own affairs. Eccleshill, with sixteen other places in Airedale and Wharfedale, formed the Carlton Union, which has since been re-constituted

as the Wharfedale Union. Modern Poor Law and Local Government Acts have brushed away a good many time-honoured cobwebs of abuse in relation to the dispensing of relief to the poor, but not a whit too soon was Gilbert's Act, with its "guzzling" and bickerings among parish officers, and, almost as a rule, miserable treatment of the poor, superseded by some more conscionable system. Racy tales are told of a few old stagers who in the early part of the century managed the poor's accounts, but we refrain from giving names, as these persons were no worse than many in other places who thought it no robbery to pillage the poor and the poor ratepayers. To remedy this state of things a "Select Vestry" was appointed in 1826. The change was scarcely an improvement. After a generation of strife and contention, during which this "select" body acquired the sobriquet of the "Fools' Vestry," the township was included (about 1869) in the North Bierley Union, and we suppose is now as well ordered as other places in parochial matters. Of late years the township has possessed a staunch officer in Mr. John Green, who since 1860 has held the several offices of overseer, assistant overseer, and collector. The present overseers are Mr. Moses Thornton and Mr. John Hutton.

The Public Health Act was adopted at Eccleshill in 1855, amid much opposition from lovers of things as they were, and since the establishment of a Local Board, the sanitary condition of the district has undoubtedly been much improved. There are still fastidious people, who aver that some parts of the township are yet scarcely creditable to a well-ordered community. The Board have, however, wisely resolved upon a scheme of sewerage which will much increase the healthiness of the town. By the one adopted the sewage from about three-quarters of the township will be disposed of by irrigation. In the remaining one-fourth, for which it would be difficult to find land suitable for irrigation, it is proposed to collect the sewage and dispose of it by the process known as "downward filtration." The scheme is being prepared by Mr. W. B. Woodhead, surveyor, of Bradford, and for its carrying out borrowing powers will be sought. The township has been supplied with water from the higher level service of the Bradford Corporation since the year 1857. The members of the present Local Board are Messrs. Thos. Scott, (chairman), John Moore, Nathan Denison, H. R. Halsted, E. Galloway, J. E. Scott, W. Ingle, J. King, and J. D. Garth. Mr. J. B. Senior is clerk; Mr. T. Hutton surveyor of roads; and the medical officer is Mr. J. P. Aston.

Although so near Bradford, Eccleshill has, until very recently, been almost exclusively engaged in the manufacture of cloth, flannel, &c.,

but the sister trade of worsted has now gained a footing, and may be trusted to assert itself. In the lower part of the township are stone quarries, but the product is by no means equal to that in the adjoining township of Idle, either in quantity or quality. Rich layers of fireclay underlie the upper portion of Eccleshill, above which is a seam of the Low Moor better bed coal measures. The air is rather strong, but is clear and bracing. The population of the township was in 1801, 1351; in 1831 it was 2579; in 1851, 3700; and in 1871, 5621. By the considerable increase in dwellings since the last census, it may now be estimated at 6500. A valuation of the township was made by Mr. Jos. Hepworth in 1826, which showed the gross assessable value to be £2480 17s., producing, by a rate of 1s. in the pound, £124 os. 9d. In 1870, the rateable value had risen to £12,679 11s. 6d.; and last year it had increased to £16,024, realising by a rate of 2s. 4d. in the pound, the sum of £1865 18s. 6d. At no former period has Eccleshill increased in the ratio that it is doing at present. Undoubtedly the first impetus to this prosperity was given by the enclosure of the 210 acres of common land for which an Act was obtained in 1841. Previous to that time the principal landowners were W. S. Stanhope, the Rawsons, William and John White, Hird's executors, Thomas Leavens, Francis, Samuel and John Barraclough, William Bullough, William Child, William Fenton, Wilks, William and Stephen Greaves, Wm. Holmes, Charles Hutton, John Jobson, Miss Jowett, Chris. Edmondson, Andrew Hodgson, &c. Much of the property held by some of the former owners has changed hands, and in a few cases not an inch remains in possession of present representatives of old Eccleshill families. In addition to the above landed proprietors of Eccleshill fifty years ago may be given the names of Smith, Hutton, Hargreaves, Adcock, Yewdall, Thornton, Crabtree, Baxter, Womersley, Hammond, Naylor, Edmondson, and Lambert, the representatives of these families being all substantial men of their time. The Bolton Hall Estate, in the adjoining township of Bolton, which now belongs to Mr. John Pullan, of Eccleshill, was formerly part of the estates of the Stanhopes, from whom it passed to the last owner, Mr. Barton.

A quaint old-world place Eccleshill undoubtedly was before the enclosure of the moor. The old stock were fond of strange legends, picked up no one knew how; and the village could boast of more ghosts, noisy and otherwise, than any other hamlet in this part of the country. One old inhabitant, named Whittam, who died some thirty-five years ago, at the age of eighty-four, had preserved the following tradition:—"Before Eccleshill belonged to the ancestors of the Stott family, the last of the previous family of owners had grievously

offended a witch who lived near Stanningley, and she threatened him with ruin. He was a keen sportsman and kept a pack of harriers. ("Dog Kennel Farm" is still situate on Eccleshill Moor, near to where the Pottery now stands). Shortly after this threat, a hare was found near Stanningley, which proved too fast for the dogs, and, after a long day's run, took refuge in a wood, where it was lost. Day after day the hare was found near the same place, but was always too fleet for the dogs, and was always lost in the same wood. The passion of the squire to catch that hare became a kind of madness. He launched out into unwonted expenses, and got head over ears in debt. After a few seasons, a stray hound, happening to have lost the scent, fell in the line which the hare took in entering the wood. This hound bit her in the side, and the riders came up just in time to see her scramble up the roof of a low hut and jump down the chimney. The next moment the door was burst open. No hare was seen; but on the bed lay the witch, out of breath, and bleeding in the side from the wound which the dog had given her when she was the hare." Whittam was not quite clear about what became of the witch; but, at any rate, the debts which the squire had contracted in hunting her led to his estate being placed in the hands of his creditors, by whom it was sold, thus coming into the possession of another family.

Eccleshill Hall and estate still belong to the Stott family, who, during this century, have taken the name of Stanhope. The hall has been a good house, lightsome within, and has at least one wainscoted room. For a building of its date it must be regarded as having been wisely planned and not badly situated. The Hall was built in 1713 by Dr. Stanhope, one of the younger branch of the Stanhopes of Horsforth, and a concession of about twenty-three acres was obtained from the freeholders for the purpose of forming the park. The estate was also added to by purchase of small properties from easy-going, needy Eccleshillites, and much of the low land intersected by the railway and extending up to Fagley was purchased from Lord Pollington. Dr. Stanhope was never married, but had a brother to whom he left all. This brother's wife surviving him left the estate at her death to her own relatives, named Stott, of Manchester, and also entailed it. The Stotts hereupon took possession and resided at Eccleshill Hall, the first who added the name of Stanhope being Walter Stott. He married a Miss Slater, of Bradford, by whom he had one daughter. "Watty" Stott-Stanhope did not do much to enrich the estate, but the reverse. One of his expedients to raise money was to clear about a hundred acres of timber in Bolton township, belonging to the family property. He was twice married, the

second time to his coachman's daughter, but in consequence of the Eccleshill people calling out after her as she rode in her husband's carriage, he removed to Kent, where he died, leaving daughters only, and the entailed estate passed to his nephew, the late George Stott-Stanhope, who was for twenty years colonel in a Madras regiment. Col. Stott-Stanhope occupied the hall for a few years in the lifetime of his predecessor ; but afterwards built a larger house in accordance with more modern tastes, on the site of the old farm, occupied by his brother John, in the neighbourhood of Ravencliffe Wood. This new mansion is now occupied by Mr. J. L. Gillies, merchant. Eccleshill Hall was, after Col. Stott left it, tenanted by his cousin Susannah, with whom lived a niece, Miss Susannah Green Stott, a lady of some standing in Bradford society twenty years ago. Latterly, Miss Stott held a lease of the hall, and resided there until recently, when she took up her residence at Poole. The late Colonel Stanhope, although resident at Eccleshill, was both too far advanced in years, and too much of an old Indian officer, to enter into the concerns of the township. He was, however, of a kindly disposition and a considerate landlord ; but the trade of the place rendered the people generally independent of the Stanhope influence. The entail was cut off by the late Colonel, and by his will the estate, comprising 500 acres, is sub-divided among his numerous family. At no previous period has the Stanhope estate been so valuable as at present, and its value will be considerably enhanced by the contemplated opening up and disposal of the property.

In recording our jottings of a ramble through the township of Eccleshill, we may as well make a start from the Robin Hood Inn, which was the toll-house before the Killinghall Road was made. That road was opened about the year 1804. Previous to that time traffic from Harrogate and that direction had to struggle up Eccleshill Bank, along the Town Street, and past Stone Hall to the toll-bar, reaching Bradford by way of Undercliffe Old Lane, Pollard Lane, and Church Bank. Of course the moor was unenclosed ; it had its Blake (bleak) Hill, as well as its ponds and holes. It was well grown over with bilberries, and was a famous place for gipsies, "knur and spell" matches, and an occasional prize-fight. On the higher portion near Undercliffe, not a house was to be seen, and this was the case for years after the enclosure in 1843-5. This part of the moor has now become in increasing favour for the erection of residences of a substantial description by the well-to-do manufacturers of Eccleshill and Bradford. Few finer positions could be chosen "round about Bradford." In the middle of the common were the "dog kennels"

belonging to Eccleshill Hall, with a cottage attached—the sole habitable building. “Ike Huntsman” (whose proper name was Thornton, and who resided at the Hare and Hounds Inn at Undercliffe) was the last who attended to the hounds. The “dog kennels” still remain, with a farm attached, at which Sammy Rhodes has lived for thirty-three years.

Except this old building, the Potteries were the first to break into the common land, excellent beds of clay being found by the late Mr. Woodhead, who had a considerable repute as mining engineer. He was also a man of very varied practical knowledge, and was a good geologist and chemist. His apparatus for the manufacture of pyroligneous acid afforded a notable illustration of the possibility of turning all kinds of waste substance to a useful purpose. The Pottery was established in 1837, under the auspices of Mr. Rawson, the lord of the manor, and is still called “Manor Pottery.” It was afterwards purchased by Mr. Woodhead, who also acquired by purchase the valuable mineral rights under the enclosed land. For some years, however, it was strictly a “pottery,” the products being the brown glazed stone-ware used in culinary operations, which were in great request by pot-hawkers, and especially “gipsies.” An old Moor-sider informs us that he has counted as many as thirty gipsy encampments on the moor at one time, many of them in waiting to replenish their stock-in-trade. At that period, too, a large quantity of the clay in its crude form was disposed of for “white-stone,” once so popular for scouring kitchen floors. For some years, however, the manufacture of “pots” has been discontinued in favour of articles used in building and other operations; and for the same reason the stratum sold for scouring floors was no longer sold off the premises, it being found of great value for the best quality of firebricks. Hence the decline of the “white-stone” trade.

Brick-making at Manor Pottery being an industry of some importance, we may briefly describe the process. Beginning with the raw material, we descend an adjoining quarry in which we are enabled to note the disposition of the strata. Nearest the surface lie about fifteen yards of blue shale, admirably adapted when ground for ordinary bricks to stand weather; next there is a seam of small coal, 2ft. 6in. in thickness, of the Low Moor better bed; then comes the upper or better bed seat-stone, or fire-clay, the manufactured article being in great repute, especially in various parts of Lancashire, for coke ovens, gas retorts, and similar purposes. This is the material formerly sold for “white-stone,” which in its natural state is so hard that blasting has to be resorted to. Underneath this lies the low bed

of strong fire-clay for blast and puddling furnaces, boiler-setting, flues, and ordinary fire-bricks. A mixture of these strata is also made up into sanitary tubes, malt-kiln tiles, flues, chimney-pots, &c. From the bottom of the quarry the material is sent in corves up a tramway 150 yards in length to the grinding pan, and a striking fact in connection with the whole process is that from being put into the corve until it emerges as a perfect brick the material is not touched by hand, all being done by machinery. From the grinding pan the crushed material is caught up in a powdered state in little buckets and shot into the "pug mill." Here it is tempered with water and passed into a Bradley and Craven's machine, from which it emerges at the rate of twenty-six to thirty bricks a minute. The new-made bricks are deposited by this machine in pairs on a travelling sheet, whence they are carried to one of Hoffman's kilns, and there burned by that process of continuous firing peculiar to this improved kiln. For fire-brick, pipe, tile, and chimney pot manufacture different processes are adopted, all of which are very interesting. The business is now conducted by Mr. Wm. Marshall, son-in-law of the late Mr. Woodhead, whose grounds adjoining Manor House—but forty years ago common land—afford a striking illustration of what is possible to be effected by cultivation.

Close by the Pottery, on a triangular piece of land, there is a huge indented boulder, known as the "wart stone," from the circumstance that any water settling in the cavity is supposed to cure those troublesome excrescences called "warts." It has a history apart from this, however, inasmuch as during the troublous times in the beginning of the present century the cavity held a stout signal or beacon shaft that could be seen for a great distance. On the high ground to the left stands Acre House, the name being taken from an old farm-house formerly inhabited by old Berry and Tommy Hardcastle. In ordnance maps the fields surrounding this residence are called "Holy Acres," and in the land below the railway station we find Holy Well and Holy Grove, but no light can be thrown upon these doubtless significant terms by even the "oldest inhabitant." Acre House has recently been purchased by Mr. John Marshall, who has acquired and much improved the adjoining land forming his compact estate.

Proceeding on Stone Hall Road we pass a house the upper room of which is occupied for worship by the Baptists, this denomination having only recently established itself in the village. On the opposite side is the Recreation Ground, three acres in extent, granted to the town under the Enclosure Act,—a provision of no mean value even for a breezy place like Eccleshill. Some contention having arisen in consequence of a proposal of the Local Board to take off a narrow

strip of this ground for a road, the matter was brought to trial in February, 1864, by John Child, the people's churchwarden for the time, who obtained a decision affirming that the three acres must remain intact for the use of the inhabitants for ever; the boundary to belong to and to be kept in repair out of the town's rates. Along the bottom of the Recreation Ground there is a sombre row of clothiers' houses, but the "fashion of them is passing away." In the third storey windows loom-tackling is frequently visible, and here and there a broad-backed man, or woman of scarcely less proportions, may be seen at work, but the clatter and thud of the hand-loom are fast being transferred to the woollen mills. Rather singularly the first manufacturing premises we pass in this once exclusively clothing village are worsted mills—Victoria Mill, occupied by Messrs. Mason Bros., and Stone Hall Mill, by Mr. H. R. Halsted. The fact is suggestive as showing the aggressive character of the worsted trade. A wool warehouse, built by Mr. Andrew Holmes, and now occupied by Messrs. C. & T. Hutton, flanks the roadside. Near the summit of the hill once stood Stone Hall—a low straw-thatched building with diamond windows, and containing a parlour paved with red tiles. The old building was in the possession of one James Kitson (an Eccleshill celebrity of last century), and passed from him to Wm. Holmes, father of Mr. Andrew Holmes, who died during the present year, aged eighty-four. Mr. Holmes was undoubtedly the best known man in Eccleshill and for miles around. He was a perfect mine of information on local matters, his knowledge dating from the beginning of the century and extending to the present time. Excepting Stone Hall, there were only two houses about here until 1802, when Mr. Holmes's present house was erected, the old Stone Hall being then pulled down. The name of Holmes, so common in this neighbourhood and in many parts of Lincolnshire and East Anglia, is of Danish origin, and affords one of the collateral proofs of the existence of Scandinavian blood in the energetic inhabitants of the North of England.

We now reach Stoney Lane, the legend from which its name has been derived having been given. In a field to the north-west of the Mechanics' Institute, and in a very elevated position, used to stand a windmill, which was destroyed when William Holmes built the steam flour mill, since converted by his son into Messrs. Mason's worsted mill. Passing along the lane, we note the Co-operative Store, the new Methodist Chapel, the old Lock-up, and Eccleshill Hall, and enter Town Street—an old part of the village, as a glance at the ancient tenements still remaining well betokens. One of the first buildings on the street is the White Hart, built in 1774 by Madam

Stanhope's brewer, Tom Roberts. Another "public" called the Stanhope Arms, last kept by Job Shepherd, existed before the White Hart in Town Street, but it has long since been given up.

The Old School, now the Local Board offices, was situate near the White Hart. John Blamires, an eccentric but worthy man, may be associated with this place. Old John was a good mathematician, and wrote some excellent papers on that subject for the "Lady's Diary" and "Mathematical Repository," standard publications in their day. He may be said to have literally "died in harness," for, even after he was unable to walk, he was carried on a bearer to school. His daughters kept a "dame's school," which is still remembered by residents of middle age in Eccleshill. Joshua Lee Thornton, a native, followed Blamires, but afterwards built himself a school. Thomas Waterhouse, the second-hand bookseller, of Northgate, Bradford, who had been a pupil of old John Blamires, also commenced a school over the stabling of the White Hart, and soon acquired a reputation as a good schoolmaster. He afterwards removed to the Independent School-room, Chapel Street, where he had a large number of scholars. The first Sunday school was also taught in the town's school, from thence being transferred to Chapel Street. The Old School was a low, mean building, in which the town's business was transacted, for which purpose it was conveniently near to the White Hart public-house. On the high ground behind there is a piece of ground which some of the oldest inhabitants remember to have heard called "Chapel Flats." No evidence of any ecclesiastical structure exists with regard to it, but human bones have been found there.

Passing along Town Street several clusters of old buildings obtrude themselves, each doubtless having a history. Perhaps the very oldest building in Eccleshill is that now used as a slaughter-house, below Low Fold, the wood rafters forming part of the gables carrying us back to a very rude style of architecture. Low Fold belonged to the Barracloughs, a family which at one time had considerable property in Eccleshill. Joseph Barraclough, who was a hatter at Bradford, and whose shop was superseded by the old Exchange Buildings, in Kirkgate, had his hats made at Eccleshill. Frank Barraclough was also a well-remembered townsman. The Bulloughs and Thorntons had also property in Town Street. Christopher Dawson, of Low Moor, owned the gabled dwelling abutting on the street; while further on, John Greaves, another of the early clothiers, possessed an accumulation of stone and mortar once dignified as dwellings. All the above property has changed hands, much of it for an "old song," and the best fate that could befall this side of

the old Town Street, with its magnificent prospect, would be a liberal application of blasting powder—or, what is not unlikely, that it may fall into the hands of some building speculator on the look-out for a desirable site for good working-class dwellings. Some fields below are called “Stritickers,”—an obvious corruption for “Straight Acres.” Strolling down the Bank the most noteworthy item we learn is that many of the houses belonged to the Greaves family, the present representative being a youth 7ft. 6in. in height. His uncle Stephen for some time kept the White Hart Inn.

Behind the Victoria Inn, there is a relic of old Methodism, namely, the chapel where John Wesley preached, and which formed the subject of much contention in his time, owing to the trustees declining to allow Conference to have any control over it. Towards the close of the year 1775 this chapel (the third in the immediate vicinity of Bradford) was built. The society then numbered sixty members, their previous meeting-place having been a private house. Principally through the exertions of Zachariah Yewdall and Thomas Yewdall this chapel was built, “with only a small debt upon it.” An unfortunate disagreement afterwards occurred, owing to the trust deeds giving power to the trustees to choose and dismiss the minister, which it was held was against Wesleyan principles. John Wesley himself made several attempts to bring about a reconciliation, but, to quote from his diary, he “might as well have talked to as many posts.” The original trustees were John Child, Joshua Hall, Abraham Kitson, Moses Crabtree, John Page, Thomas Yewdall, Thomas Read, Thomas Lee, and William Read. We believe the old chapel never was made over to Conference. It is now used as a joiner’s shop. The burial-ground at the end of Norman Lane was purchased of the Stanhopes in more recent times. The new Wesleyan Chapel, in Stoney Lane, which was erected in 1854 when the congregation migrated from the old one, is a substantial edifice, and is supplied with preachers from Woodhouse Grove. It is a Conference chapel. The Sunday school was built in 1844.

Retracing our steps, we stroll into Town Lane—a thoroughfare in which erections of various degrees of ugliness encroach upon the narrow and tortuous main street. Opposite the entrance to Eccleshill Hall is the United Methodist Free Church, built in 1838, and enlarged in 1858, when a new school was added. Close by is Workhouse Fold—or was, before Dr. Newstead invited a few friends to supper one night, when the above poverty-stricken cognomen was changed to “Ashfield Place!” Barraclough Fold has also been metamorphosed into “Belle Vue.” “What’s in a name?” Workhouse Fold, however, gave birth to

some sturdy, plodding Eccleshillites, among whom may be named the Yewdalls. The late Mr. David Yewdall, who was the principal promoter of the United Methodist Free Church, was of this family. Having purchased largely of the Thornhill Estate, he built The Grange, at Calverley, and resided there until his death in 1874. As a large employer of labour and a "good man," Mr. Yewdall's name will long be respected in the village. William Yewdall, the eldest brother of David, removed from Eccleshill to Rawdon in consequence of requiring hands accustomed to a different class of goods to those made at Eccleshill, and his business is still carried on there. Zachariah Yewdall, an earlier member of this family, was a noted Methodist preacher. The Yewdalls were among the earliest of those who adopted the Quaker persuasion, but originally fled from St. Denis at the terrible massacre of St. Bartholomew in 1572. Their name in French is Youdall. Of the five officers who left the army of Cromwell for conscience sake two of them were Yewdalls. The following extract from the records kept by the Society of Friends will be interesting :— "At a session held at Wakefield, 16th January, 1661, Ephraim Sandall, Zachary Yewdall, and Robert Clark, all three inhabitants at or neare Idle, for denying to sweare were sent to goale and continued prisoners upon that accompt 3 mos. or upwards."

The Lees and Rayners, former residents of Town Lane, were of an easy-going temperament, and although once owning considerable property in Eccleshill, it (to use a significant phrase) "slipped through their fingers." A notoriety named Aby Wade lived in a little cot near the Workhouse, let to him rent free by Mr. Yewdall. Aby's house was as great a curiosity as he was himself. Having a horror of the feminine gender he lived by himself, and never a female was allowed to enter his home. He also acquired some celebrity as a local preacher, but his discourses were never known to exceed a quarter of an hour's duration, and also concluded with one application, commencing with—"And now, brethren, to apply this subject, *air* ye born again?" Aby lived until his ninetieth year. The Workhouse has long since vanished, but close to where it stood there is still a low, tumble-down building bearing this inscription over the doorway :—"Zachariah Rayner" (the date is illegible ; it is either 1594 or 1694).

"Behould, O man, thou art but dust ;
Prepare thyself, for die thou must.

A story is told of two brothers, Reuben and Zachary Rayner (who maintained preaching in this place and occasionally preached themselves), which relates to a more recent period than either of the above dates. The brothers made a "collection" once a year for candles, and

after a sermon by one of them the "collection" only amounted to about nine pence. At this the preacher was so provoked that he thus addressed himself to the congregation:—"If this is all you care for preaching I'll preach to you no more!" In Tunwell Lane, near to Messrs. Smith & Hutton's large woollen mill, there is another building called sometimes the "Quaker Meeting-house." It is dated 1747, and bears this inscription:—"Built by James and Rachel Kitson. 'Behold now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation.' 'Wherefore, as the Holy Ghost saith, To-day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.'" Another exhortation in verse follows. Judy White, the sizing maker, who with her husband John lived at this house, was a character forty or fifty years ago. She used to attend Bradford market with a hat over her night-cap, her husband's coat over her gown (which was a blue-dotted print), a basket on her arm, and a clay pipe in her mouth. Photography was not then invented, but any artist desiring it might reproduce from this description the likeness of Judy White.

Proceeding along Town Lane we arrive at the Old Mill, the first woollen manufactory built in Eccleshill. This was in 1800, the originators being John Greaves, Charles Hutton, James Lee, John Thornton, and Thomas Thornton. The building of this mill marked an important epoch in the history of Eccleshill, affecting alike its social condition and commercial prospects. The men who embarked in the venture were each of them thoroughly representative of that plodding species of industry so eminently characteristic of Yorkshire dalesmen. They worked hard themselves, and saw that others worked. John Adcock, an employer of that period, and a Quaker, is still spoken of in terms of great respect. He was the son of Jonas and Mary Adcock, of Bolton, and resided for seventeen years in the Bank, and for about eighteen years at Moor Side. He removed to Bradford in 1841, where he engaged in the wool trade, and died there in 1851. Before the erection of the Old Mill, carding and other processes were done by hand; weavers worked two at a loom, throwing the shuttle backwards and forwards, and although often working from four in the morning to ten at night, earned miserable wages. A great advance was supposed to have been arrived at when old James Lee started a carding machine which was worked by a horse-gin! By the erection of the Old Mill facilities were readily at hand for slubbing, scribbling and milling; the spinning and weaving being done at home. The employment of hand-weavers working at their own homes in time increased largely, especially in the hands of such men as Messrs. Hutton, Smith, Womersley, Thornton, and David Yewdall, the latter,

although having his mills at Calverley, employing a great many Eccleshill workpeople. The Old Mill was almost destroyed by fire in 1816. After being restored, it was for many years worked by a company which included successors of the original partners and others. It was recently bought by Mr. George Hargreaves, jun., of Shipley, who, having enlarged it, runs the woollen portion of the mill himself, and lets off the remainder to Messrs. Smith Bros. and Mr. Isaac Sowden, worsted manufacturers.

Union Mill, the second manufactory erected in Eccleshill for the woollen trade, was built about sixty years ago, by James Johnson & Co. It is now owned and worked by Messrs. Womersley, Thornton & Co. Shortly after that period Mr. Jeremiah Scott endeavoured to establish the worsted trade in Eccleshill, and built a manufactory adjoining the Union Mill, but the project did not succeed, and the premises were added to the latter mill. Mr. Andrew Holmes erected a woollen mill at Stone Hall, formerly occupied by Messrs. Smith & Hutton, but latterly it has been adapted for worsted and occupied by Messrs. Mason Bros. There are five woollen and three worsted manufactories at present in the township.

At Tunwell Mills, occupied by Messrs. Smith & Hutton, may be seen cloth-making carried on with the advantage of the most improved machinery, contrasting strangely with the processes in operation even a score years ago. The mill is a substantial structure of three storeys, built by Messrs. Smith & Hutton about four years ago, their former works having been at Stone Hall. The motive power is supplied by a horizontal engine of 40-horse power and two 40-horse boilers. All the wool used in the cloth manufacture being foreign, and chiefly Australian, it is, when unpacked, placed upon a machine in which it is shaken out, thereby releasing much of the dirt and other substances, of which there is an astonishing quantity. This machine is attached to a M'Naught's wool-washer, and the wool emerges from it, without manual assistance, a very different looking material from when it was fed into the "shaker." Under the ancient system, when the wool was stirred round with a stick, a man might have washed much less efficiently about two bales a day. M'Naught and the "shaker" are equal to an almost undefinable quantity. The washed wool then passes through a "chemical bath," rendered necessary by the presence of the large quantity of "moits" and "burrs,"—vegetable substances injurious when allowed to pass this stage of the manufacturing process. In this bath the burr, which is a round substance; is pulverised, and ultimately disappears without injury having been done to the fibrous material. Sykes' patent, for taking out the burr without

chemicals, is also used, but it is not effective for seedy wool. The wool is next submitted to pressure in order to extract the water, perfect expulsion being obtained by its being rapidly whirled round in the "hydro-extractor" at a great rate, so that the wool is turned out white and clean, and to all appearance dry. It is then transferred to the hot-air chamber, which is heated to the intensity of 200 degrees. Other processes next await it, such as the willeying, and a second bath to take away the acid absorbed during the first process; it is then forwarded to one of M'Naught's drying machines, which is heated to the intensity of 160 degrees. In all these processes the valuable aid rendered by steam and mechanical appliances is most apparent, only three or four men being required to conduct the various operations we have hitherto noticed. After being mixed with other wools by means of a "blending" machine, the fibre is passed through a machine in which three distinct processes are performed, viz., those of oiling, teasing, and sheeting. One man only is required here, as the machine is a self-feeder, whereas formerly the wool was laid on the floor, oiled, and "teazed" by a very primitive process, and was then put into sheets by armfuls. From the blending machine the wool passes to the scribbling, or carding, and condensing machines—combining in themselves probably the greatest advance ever made in cloth-making. The wool is here bundled into Tatham's self-feeding apparatus, which is attached to the "carder"—thus saving the labour of a girl to each pair of machines, as was necessary a short time ago—and first goes through the complicated process called "carding" or scribbling. The effect is visible enough as the long silken "slivers" of carded fibre are passed forward into the "condenser"—a distinct but yet essential portion of the process, and a wonderful saver of labour. From the condenser the wool comes out as "yarn," and is ready to be spun on to bobbins. This is done upon the next storey, where immense "self-acting mules"—which seems a very proper term, as those particular animals are supposed to obey only their own sweet will—wind the weft on to bobbins and the warp on to cops. These "mules" contain above 1000 spindles per pair—a great contrast to the old 50-spindled jenny formerly turned by hand. In the third storey we are shown the "sizing" process, whence the yarn is wound on to "cheeses" and made ready for the loom. Sizing, although here done by the simplest contrivance, was formerly done outside by hand, and the visitor might any day see the sizers at work, with their long webs drying under the stone walls. Still following the fibre through its several stages of manufacture, we enter the weaving room, where the "click" of the loom and the general busy aspect remind us more

than at any previous stage of a worsted mill. The "hands" here employed are young women, young men, and some of both sexes who can scarcely lay claim to juvenility—who, in fact, have previous to taking to "t' mill" passed an average life at the hand-loom. The looms are of Messrs. Hodgson's, Tatham's, and Lee & Crabtree's makes, and all the "fancy" looms are supplied with Jacquards, "tappits," and engines. The contrast between the sharp "click" of the steam loom, and the heavy and slow "thud" of the old hand-loom is most apparent; and as with the outward movement, so with the actual amount of work turned out. After the cloth is woven, there is still much to be done before it comes to the wearer, it still requiring scouring, "fettling," and "perching," the two latter processes being required to rectify any mistakes in weaving; and then comes the "milling," or, to use the old term, "fulling," by which the cloth is shrunk and thickened. It is then "tentured" and "cuttled"—all these being done indoors. The finishing processes follow, but these are generally done at Leeds and adjoining places. At Tunwell Mills, the descriptions of goods made are super-cloths, diagonals, Venetians, Victorias, cabinet cloths, and Spanish stripes.

Quitting Town Lane (which, although the main approach to the town from its best highroad, is certainly the most irregularly built thoroughfare in Eccleshill) we enter Chapel Street, known as "t'Dobby Raw." The colloquial title given to it clearly indicates its origin. "Dobbies" were among the earlier of worsted manufactured goods, and were made to a small extent in Eccleshill. At the top of the street there is a substantial house marked "T. T., 1819," which, with several others, was erected out of the profits of "dobby" making by Thomas Thornton. The name of Chapel Street dates from 1823, when the Independent Chapel was erected. Near the top of the street is a building erected in 1821 for a town's school, when it was vested in trustees belonging to various denominations. The bottom of Chapel Street opens into the Killinghall Road, and within a short distance is the station of the Great Northern branch railway from Laisterdyke to Shipley, which was opened in April, 1875.

Bringing these random jottings to a conclusion, for space will not permit us to gossip round the township boundaries, we may note a few items referring to outlying portions. At the south-east corner of Eccleshill Moor is the hamlet of Fagley. Here is an octagon tower or observatory, two storeys high, which bears this inscription:—"Not for any merit. Pure, sincere love and esteem caused this tower to be erected to perpetuate to endless ages the memory of Susan, Joseph, John, and Samuel Jobson, upright, honest persons. Erected by Benj.

Farrer, A.D. 1828." Ben Farrer (who out of pure gratitude to the persons who left him a fortune, erected the above tower) was a wool dealer of a remarkably "saving turn," and resided at Fagley. All his business journeys were made on foot, and it is reported of him that he once made the journey to Hawick, in Scotland, on foot, beating a fellow tradesman who travelled to the same place on horseback! At his death the entailed estate passed to his nephew John, and from him to his son, the late Capt. Benjamin Farrer, who was in all respects a gentleman. Capt. Farrer was an ardent volunteer, and to him was chiefly attributable the formation of the Eccleshill Company of Rifle Volunteers, of which he was for some years captain. He died at Wimbledon in August, 1868, whither he had gone to take part in the great rifle contest. During his occupancy Capt. Farrer much improved the estate, which comprises a great portion of the land abutting upon Fagley Lane. Many acres of this land are leased to Mr. Thomas Milner, nurseryman, in whose grounds the tower above-mentioned forms a conspicuous object. The green-houses and collection of plants at Fagley Nursery are probably the most extensive and valuable in this part of Yorkshire.

The boundary between Fagley and Calverley is a small brook which runs into Ravencliffe Wood. Here there used to be a "whistling" shop for the sale of spirits. The constable's visit from Fagley was evaded by crossing the brook into Calverley, and *vice versa*. Besides, the spirits were sold through a small window which was over the water; and it would have been difficult to prove whether the hand was on the one or the other side of the brook when it parted with the bottle and took the money. "Gain Lane" leads from Fagley to what was Calverley Moor Bar, on the Bradford and Leeds turnpike road. This used to be a favourite camping place for gipsies. The upper portion of Fagley Lane to Scarr Hill has, like the adjoining Blake Hill, been much built upon during the last twenty years. Moorside Lane, not long since a solitary bypath, has also shared in this increase. Recently Mr. John Moore erected in this lane a worsted mill, which is in full operation.

Greengates is an improving part of Eccleshill township, a considerable number of houses having been erected here within the last half-dozen years. In 1867 the Wesleyan Chapel was erected. This is a neat structure in early Gothic, costing about £2000, and superseding the school-room in Haigh Hall Lane, built in 1834. A movement is now on foot for erecting a school-room on the adjoining ground. In an excellent position opposite, the Eccleshill School Board have erected one of their schools, which is a chaste example

of domestic Gothic. The Primitive Methodists have also a plain school-chapel, built in 1836, and there is a Mechanics' Institute with 180 members. At the junction formed by the crossing of the Shipley and Bramley and Killinghall roads there are the Roebuck Inn and the Old Seven Stars, the latter being of long standing. This hostelry was kept by the Galloway family a very long time, old John Galloway being the host a hundred years ago; he was succeeded by his son Samuel. The trade at Greengates is almost exclusively woollen. The Albion Mill, erected by Thomas Holdsworth in 1822, has been twice destroyed by fire—once in 1844, and again recently. Messrs. Greenwood, Garnett & Co. have also established a woollen mill; and at Dyehouse Fold, the old dyeing premises long tenanted by John Croft and his family have recently been supplanted by the woollen works of Messrs. J. & J. Hutton.

Lower down the valley we come to the steam corn mill on the canal bank, established by Mr. Joseph Pighills, and occupied by him for over thirty years. Soon after the cutting of that section of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal extending from Leeds to Skipton, the above premises were erected for a canal warehouse, and were afterwards owned and occupied by John Leavens and his sons, who were extensive dealers in wool. Mr. Wm. Leavens, one of the sons, and a gentleman of considerable standing in the neighbourhood fifty years ago, left this and other property to the Whites, another Apperley family, and Mr. John White converted the warehouse into a corn mill for Mr. Pighills. The mill is now occupied by Messrs. Wilson & Crosby, millers, who several years ago much enlarged it. The Leavens family long resided in what is now called Waterloo House, formerly a straw-thatched homestead of some antiquity situated by the river side and in a lovely part of the valley. For a long period this has been the abode of Mr. Robt. Parkin, who with his father and grandfather before him have been extensive dealers in growing wood for nearly two hundred years. The Fleshers were another Apperley family. Wm. Flesher, father to Hugh, who had a son called Benjamin, were all in the wool trade; and the above, with Slater, the tanner, comprised the principal trading community at "the Bridge" in the early part of the century.

Eccleshill was one of the villages visited by the Rev. Joseph Cockin, of Kipping, where he was received and entertained by Jonas Smith, about the year 1778. The numbers to hear him soon becoming considerable, a spacious room was taken, and students from Heckmondwike were sent to preach. In 1823, Salem Chapel was built at a cost of about £1200. The original chapel, capable of seating 700 persons, was designed by Mr. Jonas Smith, who with Mr. John Hutton

and others had previously worshipped in Horton Lane Chapel, Bradford. The first pastor was the Rev. Thomas Barker, of Idle Academy. Mr. Barker remained till 1846, during which time he was successful in reducing the debt to £200; although, during the eighteen years of his ministry, he remitted to the congregation, in small sums, no less an aggregate than £200, the covenanted stipend being only £80 per annum. The second minister was the Rev. John Fox, of Oldham, Lancashire. Mr. Fox continued pastor for about two years, when he resigned and returned to his former charge at Oldham. The Rev. John Aston, of Airedale College, succeeded Mr. Fox in the year 1850. The congregation has much increased during the last twenty years, and considerable improvements and enlargements have been made. In 1857 a large and commodious school-room was built, at a cost of £1000. The chapel underwent some alteration in 1859, when a new organ was added, the gift of James A. Jowett, Esq., of Bolton, who also contributed handsomely towards the alterations. In 1871, the chapel was much enlarged and beautified, on which occasion about 200 sittings were added. About £800 was spent on this occasion. It was re-opened in December, 1871, and is in its present form a very commodious place of worship. There is a prosperous Sunday school, comprising 500 scholars and young persons. Mr. Aston completed the 25th year of his ministry in December last, when his congregation presented to him a substantial token of their esteem.

Eccleshill Church is dedicated to St. Luke, and occupies an excellent position on the Apperley Road. It is built in the Perpendicular style of Gothic of the fourteenth century, with a tower and spire, and was opened in 1848. The site was given by Miss Jowett, and the cost of erection was £2650, towards which £1000 was given by the Commissioners for building churches. Mr. Rawsthorpe, of Bradford, was the architect. The parsonage was built in 1851, at a cost of £1200, on land given by the late George Baron, Esq., who also gave the ground for the schools, and left by will the sum of £300 as a fund for the repair of the church. In 1858 the township of Eccleshill was formed into an ecclesiastical parish, and in 1861 all the seats in the church were declared free. The new schools connected with the church were opened in October, 1873, the addition consisting of an infants' school, with gallery and class-rooms, the cost of enlargement having been about £650. Altogether the school buildings now form an extensive block. The benefice, valued at £300 a year, is in the gift of the Vicar of Bradford, and has been held by the Rev. E. Mercer, M.A., since 1855. Previous to that period the Revs. Atkins, Pollexfen, Randall, and Edmunds, severally did duty at Eccleshill,

although the creation of the interest must be ascribed to Mr. Atkins, one of Dr. Scoresby's curates, who held services in an "upper chamber" on the premises of the late Mr. Wm. Woodhead at Gate House, Bolton Outlanes. During his curacy a school-room was erected, and afterwards the church.

The handsome premises in Stone Hall Road, comprising the Mechanics' Institute, were opened in March, 1869, having cost about £1400. The history of this flourishing institution dates from the year 1850, when the present secretary, Mr. Isaac Bakes, with Mr. John Boyes (now minister of the Wesleyan Free Church) sought the co-operation of about a dozen young men and formed a mutual improvement society. After some difficulty (caused by the trustees of the town's school in Chapel Street not seeing the necessity for "improvement" in the same sanguine light as themselves), they succeeded in procuring that school as a place of meeting. After having occupied this school for some years the young society was "turned out," the trustees not approving of the "new-fangled" notions of "improvement" which the promoters had in view. The latter then took refuge in Belle Vue Buildings, but here the society sunk so low that it must have dissolved, had not Mr. S. Smith and Mr. Thos. Scott, in a canvass of the village, obtained sufficient funds to keep it going. Another notice to quit hovering over the heads of the now prospering society, a determination took possession of the members to have a home of their own. In this endeavour they were well supported by the inhabitants, and finally succeeded in rearing the present building on the hill-top, "like a beacon to enlighten the benighted." The Institute has been especially successful in the science classes, having six young men qualified as teachers in the subjects they have themselves been taught. One student, Mr. E. Harland, junr., is receiving Government instruction at South Kensington, and others are qualifying themselves. Out of the 48 prizes offered by the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes last May, Eccleshill secured six prizes (being one-eighth). The number of members is about 250, and of volumes in the library 644. In the Savings Bank connected with the Institute there were last report 1513 deposits, the amount due to depositors being £610 4s. 5d. The president is Mr. Pullan Womersley, and the secretary Mr. Isaac Bakes.

Eccleshill, to its credit be it stated, was the first village in the neighbourhood to take advantage of the Education Act of 1870, and elect a School Board. The Act was voluntarily adopted, and the first Board was elected without a contest. In proof of the energy shown by the Board in meeting the educational requirements of the district, it may be stated that the first "Board school" erected in this imme-

diate neighbourhood was opened at Greengates by the Eccleshill School Board, and in 1874 that body opened a second school in Pottery Lane. The cost of the Greengates school, inclusive of the site, was £2252, and that at Undercliffe cost £3244. The style of the two new schools is domestic Gothic, liberally treated, the architect being Mr. J. P. Kay, of Idle. The following gentlemen are members of the Board :—Messrs. John Hutton (chairman), George Middlebrook, Horatio Andrews, Thomas Baxter, Benjamin Gott, Henry B. Mason, and M. W. Sowden. Mr. Jeremiah Mellor is clerk ; and Mr. Joshua Armitage School Board officer.

The Eccleshill Freemasons possess a “Hall,” an unpretentious building erected in 1864 on what is known as the Marlborough Estate. The Liberals of Eccleshill have also a club-house at Stone Hall, with reading, amusement, and other rooms ; and there is a Conservative Club, having premises in Chapel Street. The village also possesses a Cricket Club of some standing. The Eccleshill and Bolton Gas Company light the greater part of the township, their premises in Killinghall Road having been erected in 1868.

In a hygienic respect Eccleshill possesses great advantages, the only drawbacks to an almost perfect sanitary condition in its natural features being the prevalence to some extent of a clay subsoil, but this is more than counterbalanced by its great fall of nearly 600 feet in two miles, the surface water thus easily draining away to the river which forms its lowest boundary. Being exposed to easterly winds, catarrhal affections in the spring months naturally more or less prevail ; but its remarkably pure and bracing atmosphere, by giving greater tone to its inhabitants, renders them less susceptible to climatic influences. As regards epidemic diseases and the health of the district generally, Eccleshill has materially improved of late years ; for whereas twenty years ago the death rate was over 20 per 1000, it now averages scarcely 17 per 1000 per annum. The Local Board, although perhaps with “cautious steps and slow,” are nevertheless grasping the pressing sanitary questions which a rapidly increasing population bring to the front ; and are engaged in considering an improvement scheme of the town generally, which is greatly needed. If Eccleshill is to be what its physical advantages should make it, viz., one of the healthiest towns in the country, it will require all the consideration and perseverance in measures of sanitary reform which the Board of Health can give.

The character of the people of Eccleshill in the early part of this century had its peculiarities. Like other West Ridingers, they were self-willed, and many of them made no disguise of their rudeness.

The inhabitants generally, however, were an industrious people, not unwilling to co-operate for the advancement of their own trade interests, which they did in building the Old Mill and Union Mill. There was no desire to perpetuate ignorance. The proportion of Eccleshillites who about 1835 or 1840 were totally unable to read must have been very small indeed. Here, as in the district generally, the inhabitants were partial to the giving of Scripture names to their children, some of them being of an unusual kind. In one family, which boasted only three children, the names were Ishmael, Ichabod, and Merab. Eccleshill was also a musical place. Each chapel had its violoncello and singers; and occasionally, certainly on all great occasions, other instruments as well. In this respect the old Wesleyans took the lead, having often two basses and sometimes a double bass. Time and tune were carefully studied. Forty years ago the Eccleshill musician would, after a hard day's work, trudge off, along with a musical comrade, to practice with the Bradford Philharmonic Society, carrying a double bass! At that time, besides bass players, the village could boast of players on the violin, flute, clarionet, serpent, bassoon, and trombone, and of a considerable number of tenors and basses who could *read* anthem music fairly well. Easter Sunday morning was usually ushered in by a brass band playing anthems at one place or another. Christmas Day witnessed the same interesting custom. On the whole, moreover, Eccleshill was a comparatively religious village; the places of worship were sufficiently numerous and sufficiently well attended by the employers to leaven the population. Public feeling was against the grosser vices and even against Sunday idling. Many of the characteristics which distinguished the previous generation still prevail—firmness, frugality, and industry being the most prominent features. Some of the old stock prefer to go on the old jog-trot, making a web at home and putting endless time in for little gain, but their sons and daughters are generally drafted into the mills.

Several natives of the village have risen to creditable positions in the world, but we can only mention two or three. The Rev. W. O. Booth, a Wesleyan minister of considerable reputation, was a native of Eccleshill, having been born there in 1801. He met first in the class of Joseph Fenton, which met at Thomas Lightfoot's, and after being a teacher in a Sunday school opened by John Read in the Old Bank, he preached his first sermon at Bolton, on November 28, 1819. At the Conference in 1824, he was appointed to Doncaster. After fifty years of useful ministry Mr. Booth was made supernumerary, and now lives at Clapton, near London. Richard Iles, a young man of promise, also went into the ministry, but died after two years had elapsed.

The Rev. Thomas Hutton, son of John Hutton, was born at Eccleshill in 1794, and after preparatory study entered Idle Academy, then under the Rev. William Vint, in 1813. After ten years' ministry at Pocklington, he removed to Allerton, where he continued pastor of the Independent Chapel for thirty years. From that position he voluntarily retired in 1857, carrying with him the esteem of those who had long witnessed his consistent life and labours. He died on July 3rd, 1871.

Three sons of James Tomlinson, of the Union Mill, were gifted with considerable mechanical genius. One of them, named William, manager for Messrs. William Yewdall & Son, died at Ripon, and left a legacy to the Independent Chapel, Eccleshill. Another, named James, rose to be chief engineer of the Great Eastern Railway, and died in November, 1875, at Starbeck. Philip, another son, an engineer, lives at Methley.

The Lambert family has somewhat notably sent three of its members into the medical profession, viz., Dr. Lambert (for thirty-five years a surgeon at Farsley) and his two nephews.

The members of the eminent firm of Thornton Bros., the extensive woollen manufacturers of St. Petersburg, also went from Eccleshill.

One of the notabilities in a humble sphere connected with Eccleshill was Tom Worsnop, as he was familiarly called. Mr. Worsnop was well known in this and other northern counties as a popular advocate of temperance, and was in himself an exemplification of the benefits to be derived from the principles he professed. He died at Eccleshill in April, 1869.

Closely adjoining to Eccleshill, and formerly having considerable affinity with it through the clothing trade, is Idle, which is in the parish of Calverley. The extent of this township may be gathered by any one acquainted with the district, when it is stated that it reaches from Apperley Bridge to Windhill Bridge, and from Buck Mill to Bolton Outlanes. The natural contour distinguishing this extensive area is therefore of the most varied description. The scenery in the neighbourhood is truly delightful, and from the northern slopes of the township there are to be obtained prospects not to be surpassed throughout fair England. Who can stand upon Idle Hill, especially when "Sol is sinking in the western sky," and follow the windings of Upper Airedale, with the uncultured wastes of Denholme and Rombalds Moor in the distance, without being entranced with the scene before him? The hill sides of the township are well clothed with

timber, while the River Aire, "mild, still, and slow," extends along the whole length of its boundary. The river was once so pure as greatly to enrich the woodland views, but now it passes along offering in each sluggish ripple a pungent protest against the manufacturing sinners of Bradford-dale.

With regard to the name of Idle, we do not purpose adding to the already copious list of possible derivations, although it would doubtless be interesting to arrive at the original meaning of the term. As at present spelt, it certainly may be thought to carry some sort of opprobrium to which the character and habits of the inhabitants give no countenance whatever. From documents at least 300 years old we find that little alteration in the mode of spelling has taken place—it is usually Idell or Ydell, which are equivalent, and we are informed by Mr. J. Horsfall Turner, a local antiquary, who has searched the Calverley register, that for the major part of 300 years the present mode of spelling was frequently adopted. In isolated instances we have met with "Hidell" and "Eydale."

The commanding locality, by whatever name it was known, was apparently taken advantage of a thousand years before we have any written record of it, and there are now in the town several tokens more enduring than parchment to attest the fact. About 1800 William Storey opened a quarry on Idle Moor, and turned up many Roman coins, which are now in the possession of the Braithwaites, his descendants. At the time the above coins were found, human remains, enclosed in a stone coffin or enclosure, were also discovered. We have heard of other Roman coins now or at one time in existence in Idle, which were also found upon the high moor. Idle Hill, from its admirable position, was a very suitable place for an exploratory camp, and there, doubtless, our ancient conquerors would plant themselves for a longer or shorter period.

The woods which formerly abounded have much dwindled in area even within the present century. From an old valuation we find that in the latter half of the sixteenth century there were in Idle township alone 250 acres of forest trees. As James, the honoured historian of Bradford, remarked, "the owners of land seem to have no just conception that wood enhances its value by ornamenting it, rendering it more fertile in bleak situations. For no sooner have a few oak saplings sprung up in the hedgerows of the sordid tasteless owners, than the tanners tempt with a high price, and the trees are immediately stripped of their bark." We might add that other bidders have sprung up who take, not the bark only, but the trees, and even the ground upon which they stood. But why protest? Civilisation is omnipotent.

From very early times Idle seems to have been held, with many other possessions, by the Plumptons, and the supposition is that it came to them through the marriage of a female of the family with the son of Gospatric, to whom De Lacy had granted it as his *mesne* or intervening lord. The Plumptons were a family of some distinction during the Middle Ages, and possessed the delightful estate of Plumpton, near Knaresbro', which lands they had held since the twentieth of William the Conqueror until about 1780, when the estate was sold to Daniel Lascelles, Esq. Although there is some doubt as to when Idle came into the possession of the Plumptons, we learn from a deed still extant that they held Idle, with nineteen other manors, prior to the time of Henry II. in the twelfth century, for at that period one Nigel de Plumpton gave to the nuns of Esholt a piece of land situate in Idle, and a gift was subsequently made by another Nigel, who confirmed all his grandfather and ancestors had given, and gave *with his body*, "all the lands beneath the *essarts* (cleared woodland) called Eholm, Strangford, and Aldrodwode, with pasture in the woods of Idel for thirty-two oxen, twenty cows, one bull, and sixty hogs, without pannage" (swine's rent for feeding upon the acorns in autumn). Strangford Farm, opposite to Esholt, is still known by that name. The Plumptons were liberal patrons of the Cistercian priory of Esholt, which was founded in the reign of Henry II.

With the fortunes of the Plumpton family Idle is associated to some considerable extent, as we learn from a valuable Correspondence, which is of some note among antiquaries. From this volume glimpses of public and social life and manners of a bygone age are obtained which might warrant a much more liberal notice than the scope of these sketches will permit, but nevertheless something of local interest may be culled.

In it we read of quarrels and feuds of rival nobles, intestine wars, invasions, battles, and persecutions. The Plumptons took an active part in national warfare, and were followed to the field by their retainers, tenants, and vassals. At the decisive battle of Towton, near Tadcaster, in 1461, Sir William Plumpton and his son and heir were present. It is very probable, remembering the feudal tenure by which lands were then held, that Idle furnished a contingent for that bloody field, but the chronicles are silent as to whether any native-born ever "Blazed in the roll of martial fame." The bloody issue of Towton resulted in the death of Sir William Plumpton's heir, also named William, and this had a disastrous effect upon the fortunes of the family. The son William had been married to a daughter of Thomas, Lord de Clifford and Westmoreland, she being only twelve

years of age, on the condition that they were not to live together till she was sixteen. Two daughters were afterwards born, and it was during their infancy that the father was killed, they being then adopted by the grandfather, Sir William, as his heirs. The infants (one being only four years old) were given, or rather sold, in marriage by the grandfather to the sons of Brian Rowcliffe and Henry Sotehill (the latter paying £333 for the bargain), on condition that when the marriages were consummated the two girls should be co-heiresses of their grandfather's estate, he being then supposed to be a widower. The fact was, however, the wicked old knight was married all the while (although clandestinely), and had a son named Robert, who was thus his lawful heir, and yet barred from his rights by the agreements entered into by his father in favour of the two granddaughters. This proceeding on the part of Sir William Plumpton was the occasion of lawsuits between the families concerned, which lasted far into the reign of Henry VIII., and which did much to impoverish the Plumpton family. Two letters addressed while these proceedings were going on to Sir Richard and Sir Robert Plumpton (Sir William having passed away), show that the family were then resident at Idle. The Sotehills and Rowcliffes, backed by the notorious Sir Richd. Empson, took possession of the Idle lands, and in defence Sir Robert Plumpton fortified the manor-house with "guns, bowes, cross-bowes, bills, speares, and other weapons." The Sotehills and Rowcliffes, however, still acted as proprietors of the Plumpton estate, selling timber and otherwise despoiling it.

Without following further this unfortunate family struggle, it will suffice to say that it ended unfavourably for the heirs male of Sir Wm. Plumpton, and that the estates passed to the female line. The Rowcliffe portion afterwards went to Sir Ingram Clifford, of the Cliffords of Skipton Castle, by marriage with a granddaughter of Sir John Rowcliffe, and he dying childless left his half of the manor of Idle to his nephew George, Earl of Cumberland, father of the redoubtable lady Anne Clifford who restored Skipton Castle to its ancient splendour. The other half went to Sir John Constable, who left two daughters, one of whom married Sir Anthony Thorold, who took one quarter, and the other daughter married first William Bevecourt, and secondly William Oglethorpe, she taking the remaining quarter of the manor. The manor afterwards came to Henry Thompson, of Esholt, in whose family it remained about a century, when it was transferred to the more distinguished house of Calverley, by the marriage of Frances Thompson with Sir Walter Calverley. In 1749-55 his son of the same name sold the manor of Idle and the mansion at Esholt to Robert

Stansfield, of Bradford, in the line of whose collateral descendants it has passed to our own time, the present lord of the manor being William Henry Crompton Stansfield, a lieutenant-colonel in Her Majesty's service.

From this sudden leap to the present period we must revert to the Earl of Cumberland, who, although a skillful and intrepid navigator and an accomplished courtier, was a reckless spendthrift. Setting out with an ample estate, he in little more than twenty years reduced himself to positive straits. We have before us several deeds of sale signed by his hand referring to Idle and Windhill, a recital of which would be interesting did space permit.

Shortly before 1583 the Earl of Cumberland had the manor surveyed, as well as his other property. The Rev. H. Harrison, incumbent of Idle, had in his possession some years ago the original survey, and from it he deduced some interesting facts embodied in a manuscript volume kindly lent for our perusal. Unfortunately, the Cumberland survey tells us nothing of the habits and modes of life of the Idletonians of that day. From it we gather, however, that Idle was a "town," with its three hamlets of Thorp, Wrose, and Windhill, and was held of the Queen as of her honour of Pontefract, a fealty of 6s. 8d. being paid in consideration of all free rents, suits of court, and other services. The manor was for the most part barren ground, wherein were great quantities of wood and quarries of wallstones and slates. Coal mines also were believed to exist "if diligently sought for." The Manor-house, then called Idle Hall, is mentioned as being situate at "the north-east corner of the town, near to the well." This old building is understood by many to have occupied the site of the White Bear Inn, and some confirmation is lent to the supposition by the above public-house being still manorial property. On the other hand, there formerly stood on the site of the Post Office a fine old building, which would better answer the description of being "near the well." Whichever was the manor-house, it is spoken of as being in 1583 "greatly decayed in respect to what it hath been," and yet was in "convenient repair for the use of the tenants who dwell therein." One of these tenants, we learn, was Ralph Radford, who held one-half of the hall, and certain lands called the Hallfield, the Nowe Close, Netherland, the Ellar Carr, the Lodge Cliffe with the lodge standing there, &c., containing together about fifty acres, with right of common, for 30s. 7d. rental. Isabel Dawson, widow, held by assignment from George Swayne, (who had a lease of it, granted by Sir Ingram Clifford in 1567), the remaining half of the hall, with lands adjoining, for 20s. rental.

Then there was an extensive park, "with copious springs, very convenient for the breed of pheasants, of which by report there hath been good store, but now greatly wasted by default of the keeper." Within the park was a "pretty lodge wherein the keeper dwelt when deer was kept there." A great portion of the park was walled with stone, for the most part 7ft. high, the residue being fenced with palings. The park doubtless took in the ground below the church, and swept across Simpson Green and Ashfield to Park Hill. The name still survives in Park Hill, Park Lodge, Park House, &c. Portions of the original boundary still remain near Hill Top, and a most substantial wall it is. Birk Hill also remains, and until recently was rough ground covered by dwarf birches, from which the name was derived. The total breadth of woods was then about 250 acres, the produce whereof was valued at £456 2s. 4d. Of the common lands, there were—The Over Moor, 111 acres; Thackley, 16 acres; Wrose Brow, 20 acres; and Gawcliff Craggs, "which lyeth near to the iron smythies and the town of Windhill, 30 acres." In all, the common or waste lands amounted to 236 acres. The ancient lords of the manor also held a Court Baron once a year, and had "estrays and amersiments due for assaults, frays, and blood-shedd, and such like privileges as belonged to the said manor." In the Correspondence before referred to we have a letter written in 1497 by the well-disposed inhabitants of "Idell" to Sir Wm. Plumptre, urging his knightship to take action against certain neer-do-weels who, "not having any kow or kalve, or any other guds whereon they might live," appear to have levied black-mail upon the village "geese, grise, hennys, and capons," generally. If any rolls existed of this Court Baron, no doubt many curious facts might be gleaned. An ancient custom prevailed, whereby every husbandman gave a day's ploughing, and every grassman a day's shearing in a year, to the lord of the manor.

Among the earliest tenants of Idle named in the Survey of 1583, was the ancestor of the Ovingtons, the Smiths, &c., namely, Thomas Ledgard. Ledgard held for the term of his life a messuage and lands called Smith Carr, Broad Ing, Stead Hill, West Royd, Idlaw, Summerley, Highfield, &c., altogether about 53 acres, the rental being 12s. 8d. Another Thomas Ledgard, living in 1660, was a noted Dissenter, and licensed his house for public worship after the ejection in 1662. Oliver Heywood was his guest on several occasions. Thomas Stables, James Netherwood, John Greenhall, and Edward Stapleton also held leases from Sir Ingram Clifford, dated between the years 1554-7.

The name of another tenant at Idle is that of John Sandall, who

held, under Sir Ingram Clifford, dated 1564, a messuage and lands called Oldfield, Thorp Garth, Milnholm, Carter-royd, &c., altogether about 29 acres, for 13s. A Benjamin Sandall was vicar of Calverley from 1640 to 1670, and had a son Benjamin living at Idle. Edward Sandall also took degrees at Cambridge in 1674 and 1681, and another branch were Quakers. The Sandalls were a family of great antiquity and substance in Idle, their place of abode being the old hall, which stood on the site of the present Post Office. The earliest deed we have met with in connection with this old hall is dated Nov. 27, 1661, and it then belonged to Susan Sandall, widow, heretofore wife of John Sandall, her maiden name being Yewdall. From the maiden name being given it would appear to have been brought into the Sandall family by her. Joshua Sandall and his son had it in 1721-5, and in 1794 Benj. Stead (who had acquired it by marrying a Sandall) sold it to Joseph Rycroft. The property was sold in 1819 by John Rycroft to Miss Mary Stead, who bequeathed it to her nephews and nieces, named Taylor, of Leeds, who now own it. The old hall was occupied by three generations of the Stead family, all of whom were tanners. The name of Sandall, so far as Idle is concerned, is now extinct.

Nicholas Hobson and Richard Waterhouse also held lands and tenements in Idle, as did Edward Swayne and Richard Wollsett. John Wales comes next, he having a tenement and lands called Netherlees, Wynnyrows, Westfield, Milne Close, Oldfield, and Stubbing. This was the father of the Rev. Elkanah Wales, M.A., who was born at Idle in 1588, educated at Cambridge, and was minister at Pudsey for fifty years. The good man was, however, compelled by the Five Mile Act to leave the village wherein he had so long laboured, and died in Leeds, 1669. William Ramsden, Edward Fawcett, Elizabeth Pollard (who held a messuage called Carver's), Richard Taylor, and John Rookes, of Rockcliff, are all named in the survey of 1583. The cottages were fourteen in number, and were tenanted by Edward Swayne, Lawrence Hallyday, Nicholas Hobson, Leonard Dobson, Richard and William Tolson, Chris. Wade, Barnard Oddy, John Pecke, George Booth, and William Rhodes, the two latter having equal portions in the Tythe Barn adjoining the Green. The total number of tenants in Idle was as follows:—Tenants on lease 14, tenants at will 7, cottagers 14—total 35, paying altogether per year, £8 13s. 2d.

In the neighbouring hamlet (or village) of Thorp, George Swayne held a messuage by virtue of an indenture from Sir Ingram Clifford, and lands called Laithcroft, Faltis, Apperley, Aykeroyd, Milnholm, and Stubbing—twenty-nine acres for 10s. yearly. This George

Swayne appears to have committed a murder a short time previously, and to have fled his country, having first mortgaged to sundry persons his farmhold and possessions. No record exists giving us further particulars of this incident. Trystam Lylle, John Greenhall, Edward Greenhall, Edward Allanbrigg, and Edward Jowett are the remaining tenants at Thorp, the sum total of the rental being £2 10s. 8d. The tenants at Thorp were all farmers, and much of their land lay towards the river, the names of some of the fields being then called Pighills, Apperley, Milnholm, &c.

Edward Jowett held from Sir Ingram Clifford a lease, dated 1568, of a tenement and lands at Thorp called Southroydes, Thorp Garth, Nether Garth, Faltis, Brownroyd, Hangingroyd, Southflatts, Highfield, and Idlaw. He was the father of William Jowett, clothier, of Idle Thorp, who married Dorothy Murgatroyd, and who left four sons, one of whom, Nathan, married Susannah Brooksbank, and was the ancestor of Nathan Atkinson Jowett, the fortunate heir to the valuable Clockhouse estates, whose succession led to a litigation locally as notorious as the famous Plumpton struggle. The Clockhouse land was of itself only a very small portion of the property in contention. The real estates comprised about 145 farms and tenements situated at Idle, Bradford, Bolton, Eccleshill, Manningham, Heaton, Allerton, Wilsden, Clayton, Northowram, Keighley, and many other places in the East and West Ridings of York. Without going into details of this memorable case, which for some years caused no little interest in this neighbourhood, it appears that the late George Baron, Esq. (to whom the estates had been left by his cousin, Miss Sarah Jowett), by his will dated November 5, 1851, devised his estates to the heir male of the body of Nathan Atkinson, formerly of Bolton, near Bradford, whose mother was a Jowett, of Clockhouse. In the course of the hearing in Chancery, it was established that Nathan Atkinson, of Bolton (who had taken the surname of Jowett by Royal licence), answered to that description. A claimant, however, named Joseph Jowett disputed this, and commenced a suit, in which he alleged that all the Atkinsons were extinct. On the matter being referred to the Chief Clerk in Chancery again, he issued a second certificate confirming his former decision that Nathan Atkinson Jowett was the rightful heir. Whereupon in December, 1857, the appellant, Joseph Jowett, applied to the Lord Chancellor and Lords Justices to vary the Chief Clerk's second certificate, but this application was again refused. Joseph Jowett then appealed to the House of Lords, when the Lord Chancellor, Lord Cranworth, Lord Wensleydale, and Lord Kingsdown dismissed the appeal with costs, Nathan Atkinson Jowett being

thus established in possession. The claimant, Joseph Jowett, lived at Idle, and was a person in humble circumstances, but his claim was supported by many persons in Bradford and neighbourhood, who persistently believed him to be the rightful heir. Nathan Atkinson, the heir-unexpectant of the above extensive estate, resided in Bolton Road, Bradford, at the time the property came to him. Being entirely unaware of his title to such a lucky windfall, it was only by some persuasion that he could be induced to take the necessary steps to claim his rights. Even after removing to Clockhouse, Manningham Lane, his mode of life and that of his elderly dame was little altered. The acquisition of so much wealth seemed if anything to increase the worthy couple's habits of carefulness. Their eldest son, Mr. James Atkinson Jowett, now holds the property, which is yearly increasing in value.

Having touched upon the ancient history of the town of Idle and the hamlet of Thorp, we must leave Wrose and Windhill for the present, remarking that the amount paid by the thirteen tenants of Wrose and Windhill in 1583 was £6 6s. 4d. Altogether the total rental for the whole township of Idle was £23 3s. 3d., which sum was divided into equal parts between the Earl of Cumberland and the two families possessing the other half of the manor. At that period there was no trade, no shopkeeper, neither butcher, baker, nor candlestick-maker, at least of which we have any record. Nor were there any poor-rate collectors, for there were no poor. The pursuits of the people were exclusively agricultural, and their wants were supplied within themselves. The *town* of Idle consisted of the old manor-house (then let to tenants), the "little chapel," and a few houses dotted here and there among the cultivated lands. At Thorp there were small clusters of houses, and between the latter and Idle there was the Green, at that time properly answering to such a description. Where Robson's malt-kiln stands there was the "Tythe-barn," where the tythe collected in kind was stored, and this fact gave the name of "Tythe-laithe Green" to the verdant space in front. Subsequently it was named "Tytheley Green," and then, by a process of distortion not uncommon, it came to be called "Teanley Green." There are persons now living who can remember briars and brambles growing at the back of the Old Chapel and about the High Street. The division and sale of the manorial property were the precursors of great changes in Idle, and led to its future expansion. Early in the seventeenth century the trades of fell-monger and tanner were introduced; three persons carrying on the former and two the latter business, although only the names they may have given remain. One of the glebe fields is called Tan-

house Close, and there is a Tanhouse Field at Thackley. Within a recent period the Swains, Slaters, Steads, and Edmondsons were tanners and fellmongers. The woollen cloth trade is supposed to have been actively introduced about 1640, although very primitive modes were then known. Wool at that period was worth 2s. 6d. to 3s. per stone. Even when the trade had increased large manufacturers only made from thirty to sixty yards of cloth per week. A great improvement was arrived at when the circular scribbler, turned by hand, was set in motion. A little later, horse-gins were employed to turn the scribblers instead of it being done by hand. One of these gins was in operation at a little factory near the Upper Chapel, owned by John Brayshaw. Looms which had required two persons to work them were next managed by one. The spinning jenny was a great step, and next we find scribbling and slubbing done by steam power in mills. The first steam engine of which Idle can boast was put into the Old Mill on the Green about seventy years ago by Thomas Denbigh, and was employed to scribble wool. The white cloth trade was partially commenced about 1796, the cloth being all made of English wool.

Buck Mill has evident claims to antiquity, and acquired its name from the occupiers, John and William Buck, to whom a lease for sixty years was granted by Sir Ingram Clifford and the co-owners, Anthony Thorold and Cicely Oglethorpe, in 1567. It then contained a water-wheel for grinding corn, besides a fulling mill with two stocks. Connected with it were several fields, containing about nine acres, the rental of the mill and land being £3 11s. 10d. On the opposite side of the river there is a tenement still known as the Ford-house, near an old road leading to Baildon, which at that time lay on the horse-path into Wharfedale. The river is yet crossed at Buck Mill by "stepping-stones." The name of Buck occurs frequently in town's documents up to 1780, showing that they were people of consideration in Idle for a long period. Buck Mill has in recent times been occupied under the lord of the manor by Thomas Walshaw, who carried on fulling, scribbling, and corn-grinding. Mrs. Walshaw carried on the mill for many years after the death of her husband. The Walshaws were noted for their nine handsome daughters, four of whom lived to over eighty years of age. Stead Rycroft married one of these, and in the person of Mr. Benjamin Rycroft the Walshaws and Rycrofts unite. In 1817 the old mill was taken by David Mellor, with the lands belonging to it, and afterwards by William Craven. The premises are now much extended and are worked in the woollen trade by Mr. Benjamin Thornton.

Soon after the beginning of the century the cotton trade was

introduced into Idle by Thomas Denbigh, Chris. Edmondson, Robert Stansfield, and Jasper Robson, at the mill in Butt Lane, still called the "Cotton Mill." Here carding and spinning were done, the calico pieces being woven at home, the highest price for weaving a piece of thirty yards being 4s., with 3d. a piece added "if it was the correct length and weight." Three or four pieces a week could be woven by working to ten and eleven o'clock at night. The introduction of power-looms in other localities, however, brought down prices to 9d. a piece, and then the manufacture was abandoned. The spinning of cotton was afterwards resumed by Isaac Barrow and David Green, of Leeds, and also by William Lister and Samuel Brook, but the trade never succeeded. About 1828 experiments were made in Idle by Chris. H. Dawson, Esq., of Low Moor, and William Lister, Esq., of Baildon, to card wool from worsted yarn with cotton carders, which, after considerable difficulties had been surmounted, were so far successful that a patent was taken out. This is believed to have been the first worsted yarn made from wool prepared by carders. From its appearance and capacity for work this machine was named "Big Ben." The machine being capable of working up large quantities of wool met with no favour from woolcombers, who feared that their occupation was going, if not already gone. Messrs. Dawson and Lister shortly after removed their machine to Halifax, and granted powers to others to work it as well as themselves. One of these parties was Messrs. Gill, of Tong Park, and the use made by them of the machine excited considerable disturbance, in fact, so much that the military were kept upon their premises for several weeks. How have the times changed !

Adjoining the old Cotton Mill above mentioned Messrs. W. Yewdall and Son, of Rawdon and Esholt, have since erected extensive premises called the Union Mills, containing willeying, moiting, scribbling, and condensing machinery, &c., all on the latest principle. Messrs. Yewdall are, in fact, one of the oldest firms in the district, and their goods have a wide reputation. The Union Mill premises occupy the site of the oldest manufactory in the township except Buck Mill, namely, that erected by the Cromack family some years before the present century.

The Old Green Mill, the next in seniority, has passed through several hands. Built for the woollen trade by Tommy Denbigh and Sammy Hutton (we preserve the provincial form, as in duty bound), it was first run for worsted spinning by a person named Hainsworth ; afterwards by John Holt, who introduced power-looms ; and then again for worsted spinning by Messrs. William Audsley & Son.

Afterwards Mr. Robert Sutcliffe introduced into it cotton doubling ; and it is now again a worsted factory.

Simpson Green Mill, formerly built as a woollen mill and worked by water, has also had several occupiers, including Joseph and Joshua Whitfield, Dozey Haste (the colloquial for Joseph), and James Rayner ; in the occupancy of the latter it was used as a corn mill. Mr. Robert Sutcliffe, having bought the estate, cleared away the old mill and erected Castle Mill ; so called, we suppose, from its castellated appearance. One portion is occupied by Mr. Sutcliffe for cotton doubling, and another portion by Mr. Charles Turner for worsted spinning and machine wool-combing. Castle Mill is built of two floors only, the owner deeming this to be the most perfect plan of a mill. The shed roof was, we believe, erected in reply to a challenge that such a roof could not be made suitable for worsted spinning. In this respect, however, it is considered to be a complete success. There are many devices in operation at Castle Mill for the economical generation and utilisation of steam, and the exquisite balancing of motion in the steam engines. Upon these subjects Mr. Sutcliffe contributed two papers at the Bradford meeting of the British Association, which were deemed worthy of being printed in the Transactions of the Association without alteration or abridgment.

Brackendale Mill, from being the smallest of the woollen manufacturing premises in Idle has increased to be the largest. The old mill, turned by water, was in the possession of the Stead family a long time, during which it was in the several occupancies of Billy Mitchell, Wm. Glover, and George Illingworth, all of whom were considered to be in a "large way of business." About thirty years since the premises were purchased of Mr. Joshua Stead, of Bradford, by Messrs. John Raistrick & Sons, who have erected a substantial shed, of large dimensions, near Thackley Road, besides considerably adding to the older erections. The great improvements made in clothmaking, to which reference has previously been made, may be observed here in practical operation. The present acting partners are Mr. Amos and Mr. George Raistrick. Another mill at Thackley, called the Bowling Green Mill, built by Mr. John Grimshaw, is still run in the woollen business by Mr. B. Thornton, of Buck Mill.

The New Mill, also woollen, was built in 1861, as a joint stock concern, by the New Mill Company. An extensive worsted mill and shed called Springfield Works were several years ago built at Dunk Hill by another company, and the premises are exclusively occupied by Messrs. John Wilcock & Son as worsted manufacturers. Woodbine Mill, at Dunk Hill, owes its existence to Mr. William Walker, and was

first occupied by Messrs. Midgley & Lister for power-loom weaving. This mill is now in the occupation of Messrs. Tetley Bros., worsted manufacturers. The Albion Mill at Greengates, and Hutton's Mill at Dyehouse Fold, both woollen, although just within the township of Eccleshill, are usually claimed as Idle manufactories. Another woollen mill at Greengates, occupied by Mr. Walter Greenwood, is called Greenside Mill. Buck Mill, with its "two stocks" of three hundred years ago, has been alluded to. We prize the record of it in the ancient Survey of 1583, as showing that at that period the woollen trade existed in the neighbourhood, although, as may well be imagined, Buck Mill had then to do service for a very extensive district.

The following figures will be valuable to the future historian of Idle as indicating the progress of textile manufactures within the township, and especially as showing the proportionate relations of the woollen and worsted trades:—In Idle proper there are about 1100 persons employed at the woollen mills; 120 at cotton doubling; and 620 in worsted mills, giving a total of 1840 employed in textile manufactures, independent of the hand-loom weavers at home. In Windhill there are 1400 persons employed in worsted mills, making a total for the township of 1100 engaged in woollen and 2020 in worsted mills.

Stone, now such a source of wealth to the town, was quarried to some extent in 1583, as appears from the Cumberland Survey, but it has only within living remembrance become of great benefit as a merchantable article. At the period alluded to the stone lying near the surface only would be got, and that but for local uses. The quarrymen of that day knew nothing of ashlar blocks ten or twelve tons in weight, or if they did, had no means of raising them by "steam cranes," "derricks," and such like modern appliances. At the present time, by the aid of tramways and steam, a great portion of the stone quarried on Idle Moor is got underground and brought to the surface by means of shafts, so that the absence of yawning chasms is no indication of what may be going on beneath. The superiority of Idle stone is as well known as that of Low Moor iron, and the ashlar blocks, landings, and flags of Gazeby and Idle Moor are in increasing demand, not only for public buildings in the large towns of England, but also on the Continent, while they are exported to China, Australia, and South America. Among the founders of the practical trade of stone quarrying may be named Wm. Storey, of Apperley, who opened a quarry on the moor seventy years ago. William Child, of Greengates, was also an extensive quarry master, having quarries at Idle Moor, Thorner, and other places. He had a brother James, whose son and grandson were all in the stone trade. They were succeeded by Messrs. Dawson,

Humble, Thos. Denbigh, Jasper Robson, and others. John Sharp was also extensively engaged in the stone trade, which he prosecuted with such energy and profit as to accumulate considerable wealth. Mr. Sharp was brother to Mrs. Vint, wife of the minister, three of whose sons—George, Ebenezer Sharp, and Samuel—succeeded to the business of their uncle, under the firm of George Vint & Brothers. Having much developed the trade, especially in the export department, they have long been considered the principal firm in the Idle stone trade. Two of the brothers having retired, Mr. George Vint and his sons continue the business. There are about ten firms at present engaged in the stone trade in Idle, employing in the aggregate about 850 work-people. The Halifax bed of coal also crops out at the surface here. This coal, which elsewhere dips to an enormous depth, is invaluable for smelting purposes, being entirely destitute of sulphur.

Failing to present anything like a connected history of the township of Idle, we may place on record a few memoranda which will be of use to the future historian. In 1801 the population of the township was 3398; 1811, 3882; 1821, 4666; 1831, 5416; 1841, 6212; 1851, 7118; 1861, 9149; 1871, 12,036. It will thus be seen that a much greater increase took place from 1861 to 1871 than in any previous decade. The next census will show even greater progress.

Very little information can be gathered as to town's affairs from the official records. Certainly there is an old "town's chest," doubtless containing a mine of information, but damp and mould have done their work so completely that the whole mass is almost reduced to a pulp! Strange to say Idletonians are not alone in their disregard of ancient records. Among a batch of old documents for the year 1708, numerous copies of "removal orders" may be met with, showing the abject dependence of the working men of that time upon the "powers that be," when desirous of removing to another place to better their condition in life. In such cases the workman must needs fill up a document, stating his name, residence, and trade, the object of his wishing to change his place of abode, and the place to which he was desirous of removing. This document it was necessary should be signed and counter-signed by the overseers and churchwardens, and attested by two witnesses, before being allowed by two justices. From among the batch before us, we copy the names of Henry Slater and Anthony Snell, overseers; Richard Thompson and Joshua Denby, churchwardens; John Buck and Samuel Buck, witnesses; and Walter Calverley and Francis Lindley, justices of the peace. In 1811, an assessment for the relief of the poor was made at 2s. in the pound, being the third rate at 2s. for that year for the poor's relief. The

amount realised by these three rates was £1086, or nearly one-third of the rateable value. In this assessment the total rental for the entire township, including land, was £3644 18s. 6d. Cottages were rented at that time from £1 to £2 10s. In 1819, the poor's rates were much higher, there being five rates levied during twelve months, each of 3s. in the pound. The amount realised by each rate was about £610. In 1809, Samuel Skirrow, of Gazeby, was elected "standing overseer," at £70 a-year, and, in 1816, Thomas Hill succeeded to the office at £80. Joseph Lister was for many years "standing," or what is now termed assistant-overseer, and he was succeeded by the present official, Mr. Nathan Jowett.

Before the division of the district and the formation of Local Boards, the township was managed by a Highway Board, which, with the surveyors and the usual coterie of overseers, constables, and churchwardens, met in the little dungeon beside the old Bell Chapel, and were the custodians of the "town's box" and its contents. Some lively scenes have taken place in this old town's room, of which many living do not need reminding. A few of the more prominent persons who have figured in town's affairs may be here named, the list being more suggestive than exhaustive, viz. :—Robert Stansfield, George Illingworth, Abraham Stansfield, James Brayshaw, John Burnley, Jasper Robson, John Sharp, William Edmondson, William White, John Brayshaw, John Hornby, Samuel Oddy, Chris. Dibb, Henry Ovington, Sammy Cowling, Jos. Haste, and Sammy Hutton. The great distance of Windhill from Idle, and the want of sympathy between the town and its growing hamlet, for many years led to constant feuds between the two places, until, in 1855, Mr. Ranger, the Government inspector, was sent for, and held two inquiries, the result being that a district was defined for Windhill, and it became a separate sanitary authority, under a Local Board. By powers obtained in 1874 the Windhill Board have secured a further extension of their district, amounting to about 500 acres, which will thus diminish the 2100 acres covered by the Idle Board. Idle, however, was content with its highway surveyors until 1864, when, on September 17, the first Local Board was elected, the following being the members :—Benjamin Bland (chairman), William Booth, David Booth, Fr. Audsley, John Stead, William Rider, George Alred, Mitchell Brayshaw, and J. H. Wilcock. Under the newly-constituted authority some progress was doubtless made towards remedying in some measure the shortcomings of former generations ; and in 1873 powers were obtained to effect much-needed street improvements and provide better approaches to the town. The present Board consists of the following members :—Chairman, Mr.

Joshua Briggs ; Messrs. J. Lee, J. W. Wilcock, C. Murgatroyd, Jas. Brayshaw, S. Hardaker, J. Thornton, C. Waterhouse, and Chas. Turner ; clerk, Mr. Nathan Jowett ; medical officer, Mr. J. P. Aston ; collector, Mr. Benj. Sugden. The population of the Idle Local Board district at the census of 1871 was 6253, and the rateable value £21,700, upon which ratable a sum of £2782 was raised for the year ending March, 1875, for Local Board purposes.

An Act for enclosing Idle Moor, Simpson Green, Gawcliffe Crag (now Windhill Crag), Thackley, and Wrose Brow, containing about 300 acres, was obtained in 1809, Joshua Crompton, Esq., being lord of the manor. In the Act, after allotting five acres for the purpose of watering places, and for getting stone for erecting and repairing buildings, bridges, walls, &c., one-sixteenth part of the remainder of the waste lands was allotted to the lord of the manor, and the residue to the freeholders.

The neighbourhood is supplied with water from the Bradford Corporation through the mains of the Calverley Waterworks Company, which has its head-quarters at Pudsey. There were bitter feuds in days gone by about this water supply—the embers of which are even now far from being burnt out, but the opposition scheme which proposed to take its supply from the stone workings on Idle Moor is hopelessly defunct. The inhabitants, probably from the sense of wrongly done them by the Corporation of Bradford, do not even yet avail themselves extensively of the Corporation water supply, but little by little, as the town extends (and it is rapidly extending), the supply of water from the Corporation will become essential and indispensable.

The village of Idle and the district are lighted with gas supplied by the Airedale Gas Company, at Idle. The company was formed in 1853, originally in £1 shares, but, on account of the fewness of the applications for single shares, their value was raised to £5. A stone tablet on the outer wall of the works records the fact that the site on which the works are situated was given by C. H. Dawson, Esq. Although covering an extensive and sparsely populated district, the company by economy managed to reduce the price from 6s. 8d. per 1000 feet to 4s. 2d., besides paying to the shareholders a dividend of ten per cent., although for several years from the commencement of the concern there were no dividends. In 1870 the company obtained a special Act of Parliament for their protection. The capital of the company is £30,000 ; £21,000 is entitled to ten per cent. ; and £9000 to seven per cent. The paid up capital is £17,000. The consumption of gas is 16,000,000 cubic feet per annum.

In June, 1866, the Bill was passed authorising the formation of the Bradford, Eccleshill, and Idle Railway, the capital being £65,000 by shares and £21,000 by loan. During the following year sanction was given for an extension of the line from Idle to Shipley, the scheme being taken up by the Great Northern Company and made part of their system. The line was opened for mineral traffic from Laisterdyke to Idle on March 9, 1874, the first truck-load of flags being sent by G. Vint & Brothers, and carted to the station by Benjamin Atkinson (who also filled the first truck that went from Shipley Station, on the Leeds and Bradford line, in 1846). The line was opened for passenger traffic from Laisterdyke to Windhill on April 15, 1875, which was regarded as a great event. By arrangement, binding upon both companies, goods are transferable at the Shipley end from and to the Midland and Great Northern lines. As yet, however, no arrangement has been come to for the transfer of passengers.

A great feature of the community of Idle is its solid and substantial comforts, and its sturdy independence in every shape. No man of exalted rank or great wealth resides in the township, nor is there a giant manufacturer overtopping all his neighbours. The district is studded with cozy, comfortable residences, but displaying no attempt at ostentation or parade. Probably in no place throughout the land is one man more fully equal to his neighbour. Let no one go to Idle expecting that the rustics will wait upon him cap in hand. The people are civil as a rule, but they are never obsequious. It may be added also that they are decidedly clannish. Were a stranger to go amongst them and assume to guide them, it would be resented as an impertinence, even if his actions were well meant. Whatever little status there is in Idle can only be acquired by lengthened residence and contact with the people. This close and clannish feeling is probably somewhat diminishing, though it still exists in considerable strength. In religious matters Church and Chapel can equally hold their own. The local politics of Idle are simply inscrutable to outsiders. During the sharp Local Board contests some years ago, Tories and Radicals were ranged on one side against Radicals and Tories on the other. Each party possesses a club, and being so evenly balanced each is compelled to respect the other.

In few places has the love of home been more prominent than among Idle people—a feeling which is largely developed in the present generation. To the latter, therefore, the following hasty notes of a partial circuit of the township may not be unacceptable, as by this means the opportunity is afforded us of noticing a few townsmen of a recent date who, having lived their day and generation, have passed

away. Entering Highfield Lane from Five Lane Ends the visitor will find that its commanding position has been taken full advantage of for the erection of villas of a substantial character, which, being judiciously planted round with trees, form a pleasant foreground to the sterile, stone-laden regions beyond. Standing at a higher elevation is All Alone, one of the oldest houses in Idle. This was the first house built on the moor side, long before the common was enclosed, and was for many years owned and occupied by Dr. Ellis—who for a long time was medical guardian of the Hon. Luke Plunkett, son of the Earl of Fingall, Lord-lieut. of Meath. Dr. Ellis was a Roman Catholic, and a gentleman of considerable property and learning, but little more is known of him. He willed the property at All Alone (then an undivided homestead) to Mr. Samuel Pullon: it has since then changed hands several times, and is now owned by George Vint, Esq., Willow Field. Dr. Ellis died in 1800, aged 90, and on his death and that of his charge, Mr. White, the elder, and his family for many years occupied All Alone. Mr. White had ample means left him by his relative Mr. Leavens, of Apperley, and many strange stories of his habits are told, which it were needless to repeat. His son, the late William White, occupied the old house after the father's death, and many now living in Idle well remember the influential position he for a long time held. He was indeed a political giant, a local ruler, and altogether a singular character. His departure from Idle and recent death in London seem to have attracted little notice.

Surrounding All Alone are unmistakable indications of the mineral wealth which underlies the surface of Idle Moor. Stone of the most enduring quality is being quarried in all directions. Messrs. Geo. Vint & Bros. own and work most of the stone in this immediate vicinity, and their residences, Willow Field, Summer Field, and Highfield, adjoin upon Highfield Lane. Mr. Humble, a gentleman of note in his time, was long resident in Quarry Cottage; and Barkhill has also had its noteworthy occupants. Although the present residence is only of modern erection, Barkhill House stands on the site of one of the old-fashioned dwellings of Idle. Thomas Lister, better known as old Tom Lister, lived here from 1790 to 1824, and was considered an important man of his time. He was a clothier, and collected the property and land taxes. A family of the name of Waddington next occupied Barkhill, and kept a boarding school. Of this family, one member, Dr. John Waddington, of London, has since gained high standing as a Congregational minister. Mr. Terry has occupied Barkhill for above twenty years. At Shaw House, Highfield Lane, lives Mr. Benjamin Rycroft, a worthy descendant of an old Idle family which has everyone's good

word. The Rycrofts were among the earliest clothiers at Rockcliff, by the canal side, where John Rycroft was in business in 1770. Joseph, his son, followed him, and was also a substantial man. His sons, Stead, Joseph, John, and Benjamin, were all in the clothing trade and acquired considerable property. They were also active townsmen. A sensible improvement is being effected by the widening of Highfield Lane almost throughout its entire length, which has involved the clearing away of some very old property near the entrance to the Town-gate. In the block nearest the White Bear, lately occupied by Mr. Jenkins, a dated stone showed the property to have been built in 1634, just about the age of the Old Chapel. Closely adjoining lived several generations of Wades, the village tailors. On the lower side the property had belonged to the Thackerah family for 120 years. Previous to that the Farrars had it for a long time.

Adjoining the Old Chapel, built in 1630, is the "Town's room" and the Lock-up, with its two comfortable "black-holes"—a night's lodging within which might be supposed to bring to a sense of rectitude any who cared naught for being pelted in the "stocks" which stood outside. The Mechanics' Institute is now being held in a room above, until sufficient public spirit has arisen in Idle to provide a better place. The Institute was established in 1857, and was formerly located lower down the High Street, in a building which had literally to be pulled down to prevent it from committing suicide. The room at present allotted to the Institute by consent of the inhabitants is town's property. From a much defaced inscription, it appears to have been originally erected for the town's school in 1750, and restored in 1836. About the beginning of this century a good old man, known as Master Wilson, taught the young idea in the town's school, and at a more recent period, Sammy Hutton. In front of the Old Chapel, surrounded by steps, there stood until comparatively recently a fine elm tree, beneath the shade of which matrons chatted and children gambolled, on summer days; while around it local politicians "fra'ched" at all seasons of the year. Chief among these wordy champions were John Hornby, Dozey Haste, and Sammy Hutton. Of the latter especially it might be said that

" He was in logic a great critic;
 Profoundly skilled in analytic,
 He could distinguish and divide
 A hair 'twixt south and south-west side."

A terrible foeman, too, was Sammy Cowling, when, backed with a knowledge almost legal, he came up from Windhill to lay down the law. Within a stone's throw were many other ancient landmarks

clustering round the Town-gate that would afford an opportunity for gossip. Strolling up Westgate, we peep into the old house known as Major Mawson's, the back wall of which is a curiosity. At the time it was built the natives evidently did not understand the art of getting stone, the wallings used being not more than an inch to an inch-and-a-half in thickness. Major Mawson was a notable man, as parish clerks generally are—or used to be. He was a man of fair education, which stood him in good stead, although it did not save him from an occasional blunder in the clerk's desk. On one occasion, when instructed to announce that the minister had gone to officiate for a neighbouring clergyman, he rather astonished the congregation by solemnly announcing that "Mr. Hall had gone a-fishing!" The old clerk was a hand-weaver, and stuck to his loom and clerkship until he was over eighty years of age. He died generally respected. A little higher up the street lived Robert Stansfield, one of a numerous and substantial family of that name. In the same house a gentleman, since distinguished for his munificence to Owens College, Manchester, and his achievements in mechanical science—Sir Joseph Whitworth—passed his early years. His father was a married student under Mr. Vint, and consequently lived out of college. Not far from here may be heard the lazy thumps of an old hand-loom, the operator being an old man. The following scrap of dialogue will show how the matter stands:—"Well, you're hard at it, I see. How long have you been a cloth-weaver?" "Wah, I've wovven in this chaymer goin' i' forty year, an' afoar that I wrowt for my uncle Ben." "Well, and how long are you going to stick to this slow-motioned machine?" "Wah, as long as it'll stick ta me. It did for me fatter befoar ma, and I expect it'll hetta dew for me."

A short stroll on Westfield Lane—an ancient but secluded road skirting the ridge of the hill leading to Wrose—brings us to a little grass-grown enclosure by the roadside which visitors generally will be surprised to find is a burial-ground. Our introduction to it was under peculiar circumstances. The hour, except that the season was midsummer, was far advanced into the night for one to be in such a lonely locality. Curious streaks of light as from a far-off region appeared through the clouds over the opposite hills, and a low sighing wind from the west just added a tinge of melancholy to the scene. Altogether the place had a weird aspect. There was sufficient light remaining, however, to read the figures across the arched doorway—1690, and after a moment's lounge over the low wall we departed, feeling something of that

"Spell by nature thrown
Around the voiceless dead."

On a second visit we copied the inscriptions of the only two grave-stones visible, one of which is in memory of Benjamin Swain, of Thackley, who died on the "23rd of 1st mo. Anno 1692." The second is over the body of Jeremiah, son of Zachary Yewdall, of Idle, who was interred in 1690—the date inscribed over the doorway. From this circumstance, and from the fact that there was no meeting-house at Idle, we infer that the Yewdalls gave the ground for this quiet resting-place, not only for their own family circle, but for others of the persuasion called Quakers. Several of the Yewdall family have been interred at this Westfield Lane burial-ground, viz., Jeremiah, son of Jeremiah and Sarah Yewdall, in 1746; Grace Yewdall, in 1754; Thomas Yewdall, in 1766; and others. In 1683 many members of the Society of Friends suffered by distresses made upon their goods for fines imposed upon them for absence from the national worship; and in 1686 the following Quakers of Idle township were fined for holding a conventicle:—James Marshall, £20; Ephraim Sandall, £20; John Adcock, 5s. In a previous chapter we noted that at a sessions at Wakefield, in 1661, Zachary Udall (Yewdall), and Ephraim Sandall, both of Idle, had sentence of *præmunire* passed upon them for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance. The following names represent other families buried in Westfield Lane:—Benjamin Turner, of Thackley, interred there in 1748; John Riley, Thackley, 1757; Grace Kitson, Frizinghall, 1720; and Ann Swain, Thackley, 1735. Although there are only two gravestones visible, others are known to be there, but are so overgrown with sward as not to be readily found. The majority of the graves are without any monumental record, the Quakers of that period choosing to dispense with any outward display whatever, rather than appear to extol the dust of their ancestry. The grass-grown enclosure has not been used for fifty or sixty years, and is kept in repair by a neighbouring farmer. Westfield Lane must have been a desolate spot when this little burial-ground was laid out, but it has a splendid outlook over the range of hills to the west and will repay an evening's stroll that way. A little further on are—

"Carcase End, Laverock Hall,
Tinkler Stile, and Pudding Hall."

each old homestead suggesting food for gossip; but we must return to Idle.

Commencing with Rawson Square, we are introduced to a family named Rawson, three generations of whom were doctors in the village. They were of the same family as the Rawsons of Bradford and Shipley. A son of old Dr. Rawson married a daughter of William Smith, of Thackley. Rawson Square is better known as Oldfield

Croft, from the long residence there of George, John, and Martha Oldfield, two bachelors and an unmarried sister, who lived in one house till parted by death at the respective ages of eighty-one, sixty-eight, and seventy-five years. George Oldfield was no ordinary man. He was a master clothier, and was generally useful to that body as mouthpiece and secretary in representing their grievances to the county members, Morpeth and Strickland, especially with reference to the repeal of the duties on foreign wools and other matters of which woollen manufacturers complained. He was also an advanced Liberal politician, and was deputed to represent the Idle Anti-Corn Law Association at the great Manchester gatherings. Near Oldfield Croft is the family mansion called Crow Trees, which was the homestead of the Ledgards—a family previously alluded to as among the original settlers in Idle. Up to 1800 they were a family of substance, kept a pack of hounds, and owned most of the land about Westroyds. They were, in fact, the “squires” of the village. The name of Ledgard has now died out, but their property was mostly settled on Dr. Ovington, another doctor of repute, who married a Miss Ledgard. Dr. Ovington was not a native, but during his long residence in Idle no village could have been more indebted to its medical man than was Idle to Dr. Ovington. He was a genial soul, and an acceptable visitor among the chief families of the neighbourhood. Having ample means, he was during his later years not in “regular practice,” but he had a large number of poor patients, nevertheless, and as he kept no books, his mode of reckoning was somewhat peculiar. Whenever he did happen to be asked his charges, he would say, “Well, how many children have you?” and upon the answer would depend the fee. Previous to his marriage Dr. Ovington commenced practice in the house in Highfield Lane, now the residence of his son, Mr. Thomas Ovington.

On the lower side of Town Lane lived Joseph Robinson, for many years steward to Joshua Crompton, Esq., of Esholt, and close by lived his neighbour William Stead, a substantial yeoman and breeder of cattle. Another step further on is The Grange, the residence of Mr. Thomas Harper, son of the late Joseph Harper, landlord of the New Inn. The initial S over the doorway refers to the Slater family, drysalters and tanners—an arched cellar under an adjoining cottage having been the store-room for oil. The house was refronted in 1734 by one of that family, but a date on one of the back walls—1632—shows it to be one of the ancient landmarks of Idle, as indeed its position and outlook over the Vale of Apperley would imply. The house was purchased from Mr. John Wood by Mr. Joseph Harper, in 1846. By

the side of the road is the "wreet's shop," an ancient structure belonging to the lord of the manor. Four generations of Duftons have plied their trade here as carpenters and wrights, the first of them being named John Dufton. A little further on, in the early times when cloth-dressing was done by hand, was the "cropping shop," where the process of "cropping" was carried on by Wm. Brown. John Sharp had also his place of business and residence in Town Lane. As previously stated, he was an extensive clothmaker and dyer ; his son John was one of the early and successful stone quarriers of Idle Moor ; of his two daughters, one was married to the Rev. Wm. Vint ; the other to Thomas Denbigh, of Esholt, who built the house now occupied by Mr. Vint, the printer. Mr. Sharp lived in the fold behind, in the house resided in by Mr. Wm. Booth. A peep into one of these "folds," containing in most cases a deserted warehouse, is suggestive of that changeful state of things to which we have previously alluded. Town Lane opens upon the Shipley and Bramley Road, which was opened in 1826, the contractor for its construction having been the celebrated Macadam.

High Street, like Town Lane, has its special features of interest, its traditions and associations, its town well and pinfold ; but we must descend its steep embankment without further comment. Aided by the two or three old residences left standing, we can easily recall its rural appearance when it was only a narrow connecting link between "t' top o' t'taan" and the Green. The Oddfellows' Hall, a building of some pretension when it was erected in 1840, stands near the bottom of the street, which just below is crossed by a huge girder-bridge of the new railway.

At Neukin, an old quarter of Idle, where lingered, until a year or two ago, the last thatched cottage, have lived, for six generations, the Stansfields. They are represented by George Stansfield, of Hill Top, aged eighty-four, his brother John, of Neukin, and also by the Braithwaites. Of this family was old Abe Stansfield, who was a manufacturer, and used to buy butter at Otley at fourpence a pound to grease his wool with ! The great grandfather of the present George Stansfield learnt clothmaking at Wakefield in 1745.

Fronting the Green there is a good house, bearing the date 1725, with courtyard, entrance gates, and other indications of gentility. This house was the property of Lawyer Walker, of Pudsey, then of Lepton Dobson, merchant, of Leeds, and at the beginning of the present century of Jasper Robson, exciseman, maltster, millowner, and quarrier. The land to the rear, occupied by the railway goods yard, was formerly attached to the premises. The property (which belongs to Mrs. Jane

White, a daughter of Jasper Robson) being required for street improvements, its value, with the buildings, was assessed in October last at 23s. per yard. Some interest attaches to this building, as some portions of it stand upon the site of the old "tythe barn," a relic of the times when the tenths of farm produce were collected, and were here stored.

The principal families at Thorp were the Jowetts, the Booths, and the Edmondsons. Of these the most substantial were the Booths, who owned many of the older erections, and also considerable land. Squire Booth and James, his son, lived at an old house, dated 1616, which stood on the site of the Alexandra Hotel, and which was purchased of the late Mr. Jonathan Booth by Mr. Ellis, the landlord of the hotel. There have been several families of Booths, dating from 1574; but, like some other families representing the former gentry of Idle, but a semblance of their former substance is now left to their descendants. The Edmondsons were tanners, and were generally prominent townsmen. John Edmondson, about 1770, rented the Tannery at Thorp from John Morris, and afterwards succeeded to the property. His son Christopher also carried on the business, and was one of the four partners who started the old Cotton Mill. He died in 1839, aged 62. His cousin, William Edmondson, subsequently purchased this mill and worked it in the woollen trade. This gentleman was a leading Churchman of Idle. He also took a very active part in promoting the agitation on the Ten Hours Factory Act. His son John was a young man of considerable promise, but died in 1844, in his twenty-fifth year. The Cromacks also lived at Thorp, and were able people. In Calverley churchyard there is a stone denoting that Benjamin, son of "gurt John Cromack," required a coffin 7ft. 11in. long. Elizabeth, mother of John, died in 1827, in the hundredth year of her age.

As old tenants at Rockcliff, an old clothing settlement near the canal side, we find the names of William Dawson in 1675, Jowett in 1703, Rycroft in 1770; more recently, John Ibbetson and James Whitehead. In a valuation of 1805 William and Joshua Rycroft were rented at £135 for the land and mill. Mr. Robt. Exley now resides at Rockcliff. Strangford, an old farming homestead, in the same direction, is still possessed by the lord of the manor, and leased to Mr. Wm. Benson. In 1690 the premises and land were in the occupancy of a Pollard, in 1760 of a Denbigh, and for a period afterwards of John Stansfield. The "hippings" across the river from Strangford to Esholt Hall are not now used. Instead of them the late Mr. W. R. C. Stansfield erected the present suspension bridge.

The Lees, of Bottom Farm, Milman (formerly Milnholm) Lane, were representatives of the old stock of clothmakers in Idle. They, like many others, combined farming with clothmaking, the latter business having been carried on by several generations prior to 1800, when James Lee represented the family. An old ledger, dated as far back as 1675, shows that one of the family was then in the trade, his goods being chiefly exported by way of Selby. James Lee was an important man, and had extensive dealings through his farm and his trade. His ledger contains a curious medley, in which entries for wool, cloth, scribbling, &c., are mixed up with milk, butter, "porates," turnips, entries of deaths, and town's affairs. A few extracts, however, must suffice to show the prices then existing. Thus—"Paid Benj. Leavens for 3 stones of wool at £1 1s. 6d., £3 4s. 6d.; John Russell, tentering 2 pieces white cloth, 6d.; bought of Jere. Scott, 6 gall. rape oil, at 5s. 3d. per gall.; do. 4 gallons fish oil, at 4s. 3d.; paid John Whitaker, of Esholt, for 30 cloths milling, at 2s. 6d., £3 15s.; paid Benj. Leavens for 16 stone wool at 17s. 6d., £14; paid Jarratt and Co. for 21 load lime at 1s. 5d., £1 9s. 9d.; paid J. & J. Whitefield, of Simpson Green Mill, for scribbling 20 whars. three times over, £1 5s. 8d." Lee was also a dyer; hence we have such items as—"Bot. of Wm. Lee 8lb alum, at 4d., 2s. 8d.; 5½lbs. logwood at 3s." James Lee died in 1820, aged 76, when the cloth business was given up at Bottom Farm.

Lower down Millman Lane, by the river side, the elder branch of the Slater family were located. As before stated they were tanners when that trade was the only one in Idle, and date from 1590. Since that period they have been called respectively Sclater, Slayter, and Slater.

Situated at the extreme corner of the township of Idle is the old George and Dragon Inn, at Apperley. Whether to the antiquary or the ordinary passer-by, this ancient house of refreshment possesses no little interest, and if our theory be correct, it is probably the oldest public-house in Idle. The initial stone let into the front of the building gives the date of 1704. That was the period of its enlargement by Samuel Hemingway, and it would appear from the following original Latin inscription cut into the stone mantel-piece of a little room in the house that previous to 1704 it had been a place of refreshment. The inscription reads thus :—

"Non glorie causa sed necessaria opis ergo has ades ampliberant Samuel Hemingway et Maria uxor ejus, Anno gratie mdcic. Ista sobent, bictus, potus, calor, ignus, amictus, qua si habeas memores grata referre Deo."

The interpretation being—"Not for the purpose of making a show, but for necessary uses, Samuel Hemingway and Mary his wife enlarged

this house A.D. 1704. These things are cherishing : victuals, drink, warmth, shelter, which, if thou possess, remember gratefully to give thanks to God." The bridge in front of the house being of more recent construction than the building in question, we judge the latter to have been the old ford-house, which would naturally merge into a house of call for man and beast passing that way. By the kindness of the late owner, Ald. Joseph Hick, we are enabled to trace the ownership of the property to the Hemingway family of Boldshay Hall, Barkerend. Henry Hemingway, of Boldshay, by his will dated 1783, devised it to his trustees, Nathan Jowett, of Clockhouse, and John Hodgson, of Bradford, upon trust to pay out of rents and profits £120 per annum to his daughter Mary, wife of Dr. James Crowther, and after her death to her issue. The issue of this marriage was Elizabeth Crowther, to whom the property was transferred in 1805. Elizabeth Crowther married in 1819 Col. Thomas George Fitzgerald, and in the marriage settlement scrupulous precautions are taken to preserve the property in true Protestant succession, it being under this settlement transferred in trust for Mrs. Fitzgerald and her children (with power of sale) to John Feilden, Esq., of Chester, John Hardy, Esq., of Leeds, and Samuel Hailstone, Esq., of Bradford. Walker Ferrand, Esq., of Harden Grange, E. C. Lister, Esq., of Manningham, and the Rev. Henry Heap, vicar of Bradford, were afterwards appointed on vacancies occurring in the trust. In 1835, the property was purchased by Mr. George Hick, whom Alderman Joseph Hick succeeded as heir-at-law, and by him the property was sold to the present owner, Mr. John Jennings. So much as to the ownership.

Next to its admirable position as a wayside inn, the reputation of the George and Dragon was undoubtedly created and sustained by two females, each of whom guided its affairs for a long period. These were Mally Carlile and her granddaughter, Mrs. Hick. Mrs. Hick was twice married, first to George Renton and next to George Hick ; but it is by the name she acquired on her last marriage that she will be best known to the present generation. As a stirring, business woman she was only following in the footsteps of her grandmother, who died in 1812, and whom she succeeded. A famous resort was the George and Dragon during Mrs. Hick's time, especially for those well-to-do Bradford citizens on whom the cares of business did not hang heavily ; while visitors of all classes, attracted by the beauty of the neighbourhood, were soon made "at home" by the bustling landlady. In its earlier days the old George and Dragon was also much used by that industrious fraternity called "travelling Scotchmen," who made it their headquarters for days together during their rounds.

Among the most regular of the class who frequented the house were our late respected member and townsman, Robt. Milligan, Esq., and his relatives, Walter and John Milligan, also another noted packman named David M'Conkie. Mrs. Hick added a wing to the house, which rather improved than destroyed its quaint and cozy appearance.

Apperley Bridge was the scene, in the year 1824, of a strange attempt at imposture which has now become historical. Idle, although, as might have been supposed, a most uncongenial soil for fanaticism to take root in, contributed a numerous following to that noted disciple of Johanna Southcote, Prophet John Wroe. Soon after his celebrated vision, when a commission was given him to found the sect called Jerusalemites, the credentials of John's seership were to be manifested by God enabling him to walk across water dryshod, and this feat he announced would come off on the 29th February, 1824, at Apperley Bridge. Accordingly, on that day a multitude numbered at 30,000 assembled on the river's banks at Apperley, awaiting the arrival of Wroe and his followers, who left Wm. Smith's house at Thorp Garth in procession and walked to the spot. The result may be imagined. The river Aire persisted in flowing in its usual course, refusing to be divided, and, when the poor prophet launched his frail and trembling frame upon its waters, they proved as treacherous as ever, and John got a ducking. Nor was he the only one who made a hole in the water that day, but fortunately no one was drowned, and the prophet himself came worst off, as, in addition to his ducking, he was well bespattered with mud by the spectators, and with difficulty escaped a worse fate. His after career is well known. He first built a sanctuary at Oldham, where he had a numerous following, and subsequently a mansion-cum-temple near Wakefield, the cost being contributed by his disciples, on the supposition that they would have some command over it. After his death, which happened in Australia when over eighty years old, it was found that his seership had been too many for them, and his family have now the right in fee simple to the estate.

To the old Survey of 1583 (from which we have already freely quoted) we are indebted for mention of a little sanctuary at Idle as existing before what is now termed the Old Chapel. The extract we copy entire:—"There is not within the said manor any church or chantry or other place for ritual purposes in the lord's gift save a little chapel standing in the town of Idle, wherein the inhabitants in times past used to have service and a curate at their own charge, for that they were two miles from the parish church. The same is now vacant." From this slight glimpse we gather nothing as to the site,

but from the deed of consecration of the existing Old Chapel, we learn that the "little chapel" stood upon the same ground as the present Old Chapel, which was erected in 1630. For some reason, however, the old Bell Chapel, as it is sometimes called, was not consecrated until 1692. From the deed of consecration it appears that by the several wills of Nicholas Pollard, clerk, Peter and Samuel Sunderland, the chapel was endowed with an income annually arising out of the farms by them left. This Nicholas Pollard was a schoolmaster, a native of Idle, and a relative of the Ledgards. In 1716, for the maintenance of a curate at Idle, Sir Walter Calverley and three-fourths of the freeholders of Idle granted forty acres of land to be enclosed out of the waste lands belonging to the township, for which gift the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty added two grants of £200 each. In a terrier of lands, dues and profits, belonging to the curacy of Idle, taken in 1781, there are the signatures of Thomas Hudson, curate; Jeremy Kitson and John Sharp, chapelwardens. Signing on behalf of the inhabitants are the names of Henry Slater, Mary Ledgard, John Rawson, William Wilkinson, James Booth, John Stead, John Walker, Thomas Booth, and James Slater. A portion of the "church lands" belonging to Holy Trinity, lying contiguous to the Leeds Road and the Great Northern Railway, and another portion upon Idle Moor, known as the "Intakes," were sold by auction in December, 1875.

Of the thirty years' history of the Old Chapel, from its erection in 1630 to 1660, we know little except that it was served at stated periods by a curate from Calverley. Calamy makes mention of the Rev. Thomas Smallwood, some time chaplain to Lord Fairfax, preaching in Idle Chapel from 1660 to 1662. The Five-mile Act, however, drove him to Flanshaw House, near Wakefield, where he died in 1667. After Mr. Smallwood's ejection and death, the chapel was occasionally occupied by Nonconformist ministers, and among them the Rev. Oliver Heywood. From his diary it appears that he preached to numerous congregations in February and August, 1668, and again in August 1669, the "place being vacant." In 1673 mention is again made of his ministering at Idle, and on New Year's Day, 1678, he preached in the chapel to a numerous audience, and lodged at Thomas Ledgard's. In his diary for February 26, 1679, we read: "Preached for three hours to a great congregation in Idle Chapel." On June 3, 1684, he preached the funeral sermon of his friend Cotes, of Rawdon, in Thomas Ledgard's house, Idle, "to a considerable number of his hearers." In July, 1695, we find him again at Idle, this time preaching in Ledgard's barn. A period of twenty-seven years was thus covered

since the stout-hearted apostle of Nonconformity first essayed to preach the Gospel in the vacated pulpit of Idle Old Chapel—a period involving much disquietude of which happily we know nothing now-a-days. Meanwhile, as stated, the chapel was consecrated in 1692, the Dissenters being of course excluded. From that point commenced the Presbyterian, and subsequently the Independent, interest in Idle, to which reference must afterwards be made.

Among those who officiated at the Old Chapel previous to its being supplanted by the present church we have handed down to us the names of the Rev. Thomas Faber (for sixty-three years Curate of Bramley, and during the greater portion of the time Vicar of Calverley and Incumbent of Idle), and the Rev. Thomas Hudson, afterwards of the Grammar School at Bingley, who died in 1785, and to whose memory there is a beautiful tablet erected in Bingley Parish Church. He was succeeded by the Rev. Thos. Howorth, who ministered for the long period of forty-four years. It was in his time that the movement for the new church (Holy Trinity) began, the churchwardens being John Harrison and William Edmondson. Christopher Edmondson was the donor of the site, and Christopher Dawson gave the stone to build the church. The laying of the foundation-stone was performed with great ceremony on the 28th April, 1828, a grand procession being formed. The stone was laid by the Rev. Samuel Redhead, then Vicar of Calverley. The edifice was built under the direction of the Parliamentary Commissioners, the amount of the contract being £2841. It is in the pointed Gothic style of architecture, with a graceful tower at the west end, and forms a conspicuous object in the landscape. The accommodation is for 1050 worshippers, 350 sittings being free. There is also an excellent parsonage, commanding a lovely prospect of the Vale of Apperley. To the persevering efforts of Mr. Howorth was owing in great measure the erection of the church, but he was not permitted to minister within its walls. Like Moses, he saw the Promised Land but was not permitted to enter it. He died April 22, 1830, aged seventy-four years, and a monument to the esteemed pastor is now affixed to the walls of the church. In August the same year the church was consecrated by the Archbishop of York. The Rev. E. M. Hall (a preacher of the old-fashioned Evangelical school) succeeded Mr. Howorth, and in 1857, the present respected incumbent, the Rev. Henry Harrison, was appointed his successor. The living is a perpetual curacy under the patronage of the Vicar of Calverley, and is valued at £300. The Old Chapel was converted into a Sunday school, and was so used until the erection of the Church schools in 1847, they having cost about £2000.

Formerly the ecclesiastical district of Idle included the whole township, but owing to the growth of Windhill, large National schools were opened at the latter place, and the erection of a new church was commenced, which was consecrated in August, 1869, having cost £4000. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners endowed it with £200 per annum, and made it into a separate district for ecclesiastical purposes. The Rev. R. Keeling is the incumbent. Another offshoot from Holy Trinity is the Mission Church of St. John's in Cavendish Road, Idle. This new school-church is a handsome addition to the architecture of that improving part of the town, and has cost, with land, about £3000. It was opened on the 20th July, 1874. A vicarage house is attached, and sufficient land is reserved to erect a church at some future time. The Rev. W. Aston is the curate-in-charge.

So closely interwoven is the history of the Upper Independent Chapel with that of the old building the history of which has been briefly given, that we may now take up the story at the period of the consecration of the latter. After that took place the Presbyterian element contented themselves with assembling in Ledgard's house and premises. In this situation they not unfrequently enjoyed the services of the Rev. Accepted Lister, son of Joseph Lister, the historian of the Siege of Bradford. "Ceppy" Lister, it will be known, was a cripple, but he was a pathetic preacher, and according to what has been handed down by those who heard him, "scarcely ever was there a dry cheek when Ceppy preached." He continued occasionally to visit Idle until his death in 1709. According to Hunter, however, it was the Rev. Thomas Johnson, afterwards of Painthorp, near Wakefield, who laid the foundation of the Dissenting interest in Idle, and during his two years' ministry a meeting-house appears to have been adapted for worship. A regular chapel was afterwards erected, which bore the date 1717, and in the year following two fields, situate in Highfield Lane, were given by Jeremy Ashton towards the support of a minister. In the year 1715, the Rev. John Buck was the pastor, and he was succeeded by the Rev. Nicholas Beale, whose tombstone was discovered beneath the floor of the chapel. He died in 1734, aged twenty-eight. The Rev. J. Huthwaite for more than thirty years next occupied the station, but little is known of him. He was a native of Warley, and died at Idle in 1766, aged seventy-seven, leaving the congregation in a state of great declension.

The next minister was the Rev. Joseph Dawson. He spent the first years of his tuition at Daventry, where he had the celebrated Dr. Priestley, the electrician, for one of his fellow students. Their scientific tastes and theological sentiments being similar, this early

acquaintance at college culminated in after life in the closest bonds of friendship. Mr. Dawson, after completing his academical studies at Glasgow University, was ordained at Idle on July 6th, 1768. As the income was inconsiderable, never at any time exceeding £40 a year, he commenced a boarding school, which obtained a considerable reputation. He also practised medicine for the benefit of the inhabitants, and was generally of a kindly disposition. Being of an active, speculative turn, he engaged in coal-getting and stone-quarrying, which proved to be lucrative, and he acquired considerable property in Idle. He it was who first directed attention to the mineral riches of Low Moor, of which extensive ironworks he became the principal managing partner, having in company with others purchased the Manor of Royds Hall. On his removal to Royds Hall, in 1790, Mr. Dawson terminated his ministry, and died in 1813, aged seventy-three. Of his family, his son, Mr. C. H. Dawson, lived to his 87th year, and his two unmarried daughters, Rachel and Mary, each reached their 90th year.

About the year 1778 the Rev. Joseph Cockin, of Kipping, during his itinerancy of the district, gained admission to Idle, where he was hospitably entertained by Joseph Robinson and others who had left Upper Chapel owing to the Arian doctrines of the Rev. Joseph Dawson being distasteful to them. In winter Mr. Cockin preached in a spacious dwelling-house, and in summer in a barn. This was the beginning of Independency in Idle. Previous to the giving up of his charge in 1790, the hearers of Mr. Dawson were so few that they scarcely deserved the name of a congregation; and in the election of his successor the trustees of Upper Chapel were not very solicitous as to the doctrines he held if only he could attract a congregation. At this juncture the hearers of Mr. Cockin sought out Mr. Wm. Vint, a native of Alnwick, who had been educated at Northowram, a gentleman possessing qualifications of a high order, and a pronounced exponent of Independency. When he came, the old deserted chapel filled immediately, and it was found necessary to take it down and build a new and larger one, which was opened in 1794. The church also was reconstituted, and Mr. Vint was ordained in 1795, according to the forms which obtain among the Independents. Under the change which had been made, new efforts were put forth to augment the income of the minister; the two fields that had been left were opened, and, being found to contain valuable beds of stone, were sold by auction for £1300. Mr. Vint laboured with unabated zeal in the discharge of his pastoral duties for over forty years. Possessing a commanding presence and a good address his preaching powers were

of no common order. Mr. Vint had also the reputation of considerable scholarship, and he was little inferior in his acquaintance with the modern languages. He edited Pictet's Theology (in Latin) for the use of the students; the "Life and Works of Oliver Heywood," "Towers' Illustrations of Prophecy," and the "Dissenters' Magazine," besides publishing many other smaller works. All the above were printed at Idle by his eldest son, Mr. John Vint, who established the business still carried on by a son of the latter in Town Lane. He was also president of the Idle Academy for the Training of Independent Ministers from its formation in 1800. During the thirty-four years that he held the office of president of this Academy above one hundred students passed under his tuition, including the Revs. Thomas Taylor and Thomas Rawson Taylor (father and son), of Bradford, Jas. Kelly, Abraham Hudswell, S. Baines, James Parsons, H. Bean, William Vint, jun., William Hudswell, Joseph Stringer, and many others who afterwards filled spheres of usefulness. During the early period of the history of Idle Academy the students well repaid the cost of their education by the services which they rendered to the Independent interest. It was not unusual for them during their four years' stay to preach 500 times, often journeying eighteen or twenty miles to the preaching station, and generally on foot. It was by such assiduous labour as this that Congregationalism retained its hold in many a village until the place became rich enough to support a settled minister. Before the Academy was removed to its present location at Undercliffe, it was intended that Mr. Vint should remove with it, but this wish was never fulfilled. At the time of the opening of the College in 1832 Mr. Vint was laid aside by a lingering illness, from which he died on March 13, 1834, aged 66 years, having been minister at the Upper Chapel for forty-four years. Mr. Vint left a numerous family, of whom there remain one daughter and three sons, namely, George, Ebenezer Sharp, and Samuel.

Mr. Vint was succeeded in the pastorate of Upper Chapel by his son-in-law, the Rev. Joseph Stringer, whose Greek and Latin scholarship, acquired under the tuition of his father-in-law, was much above the average of that of his brethren. After a useful and acceptable ministry of seventeen years, Mr. Stringer died December 20, 1847, aged forty-six, leaving the congregation of Upper Chapel in a very prosperous state. The Rev. William Atherton, from Bingley, succeeded in 1848. In his time a small school-room, and afterwards a new chapel, were erected, at a cost of £1500, capable of accommodating 900 persons. The chapel was opened in March, 1850, but at the end of three Sundays after its opening, Mr. Atherton was seized

with a fatal illness, and died July 16, 1850, aged thirty-four. During the pastorate of the next minister, the Rev. Henry Ollerenshaw, a new chapel was erected at Windhill. After four years of useful ministry he removed to Hull in December, 1855, and died in July, 1875, aged fifty-six. The Rev. Simeon Dyson has been the minister since September, 1856. During his pastorate, new day and Sunday schools and a parsonage have been erected, and the chapel has been much improved, involving an outlay of £3000, all of which has been discharged. The present position of the Idle Upper Chapel is not unworthy of its past history.

In the old portion of the burial-ground we meet with tombstones to the memory of the Rev. William Vint and of Sarah, his wife. Mrs. Vint died in 1855, aged eighty-two. She was the daughter of John Sharp, cloth manufacturer, whose vault is adjoining, in which is also interred his son John, an extensive delver and stone merchant, who during half a century was a great supporter of the Upper Chapel. In another vault are the remains of the Rev. Joseph Stringer, and his wife Sarah, the daughter of the Rev. William Vint. Scattered about may be found the names of Abraham and George Stansfield, the former of whom lived to ninety-three; the latter was for many years superintendent of the Sunday school. Also the names of Murgatroyd, Wade, Booth, Illingworth, Padgett, Bland, Brooksbank, Walker Denbigh, Hutton, &c. Crossing over the road to the new Cemetery, we find many of these familiar Idle names repeated, with such others as Oddy, of Wrose, John Lee, Hannah Rycroft, John, George, and Martha Oldfield, John Vint (the printer), Samuel Hardaker, of Wrose, aged ninety; John Mitchell, thirty-seven years a Primitive Methodist; Samuel Waterhouse, a worthy man whose name will long be remembered in Idle; Susannah Cordingley, fifty years servant to Mr. Vint; Samuel Hutton, the registrar, schoolmaster, and village politician, &c., &c. The new burial-ground was purchased in 1839, and an extension of it to Crooked Lane has just been made.

Methodism appears to have had an existence in Idle as early as 1763, for in that year the sum of 8s. 4d. was paid as quarterage into the Bradford circuit funds by George Whitaker. In 1781, the Idle society consisted of thirty-three members, John Lister being the leader, whilst Benjamin Cotes officiated as local preacher. During the early years of the present century preachings were held in Jacob Wood's barn, and a little Sunday school was also held in Smithy Fold, near the town well. Among the members at that period were James and William Child, James Booth, John Watson, Jere. Page, Henry Clayforth, John Lee (afterwards a Johannaite), Martha and Hannah

Child, and David Pickles. A great occasion was the first "Love-feast" ever held in Idle, which the Rev. Alex. Suter conducted in Jacob Wood's Croft. Land for a new chapel having been purchased at Thorp Garth from Mr. Joseph Rycroft for the sum of £76 18s. 3d., a chapel was built in 1810, at a cost of £1538, towards which a sum of only £343 was raised at the time, leaving a debt of £1195. Efforts to remove this heavy incumbrance were made in 1845, when £450 was raised, and a grant was obtained of £200, still leaving the debt at £500, which was somewhat increased in 1849, when a school was built, and ground purchased at Faltis for a cemetery. A new trust was formed in 1867, the members whereof not only gradually reduced the old debt, but inaugurated the movement for a new chapel, the first stone of which was laid on June 25, 1870, by Alderman Joy, of Leeds. This handsome and substantial edifice occupies the site of the old chapel at Thorp Garth, and an additional strip purchased from Mr. B. Rycroft, its total cost having been about £3600. Towards this sum the large proportion of £3000 was raised by the time of its opening in July, 1871, on which occasion the Rev. Luke Wiseman preached. Day and Sunday schools and a Wesleyan Institute are connected with the chapel. By the death of Mr. William Booth, manufacturer, in September, 1874, not only the Wesleyans of Idle, but the town of which he was a native, lost an earnest and active citizen. Mr. Booth had been a local preacher for upwards of forty years and was a very effective speaker on temperance and other subjects, his services in this direction being constantly in request. He was also an active politician on the Liberal side.

The Baptist church at Idle dates its origin from 1808, when the first church was formed in the town, but for some years previously a small number of persons met for worship in a cottage in the main street. In the year 1807, nine of those persons went to Bramley, and were baptised by the Rev. Mr. Trickett, who was the Baptist minister there, and became members of his church. Shortly afterwards these members withdrew, that they might form a church of the same denomination and faith at Idle, where most of them resided. The church was formed on the 18th of April, 1808, and in about three years the members were able to erect a place of worship, which was opened on the 3rd of February, 1811. The ground was purchased of the grandfather of George Stansfield, of Hill Top, at 1s. 10d. per yard. The Rev. W. Garnett was the first pastor of the congregation, and was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Allison, whose ministry extended over a period of nine years. The third pastor was the Rev. Mr. Frearson, who occupied the post for sixteen years. Although a very

scanty eater, he nevertheless weighed twenty stones. The Revs. Burton, Parkinson, and Hanson preceded the present minister, the Rev. James Horn, who has been the pastor for about eight years. The old chapel has recently been removed, to make way for a larger, more commodious, and more modern building, the first stone of which was laid on February 27th, 1875, by Councillor John Wilcock, of Bradford, its cost, excluding the site, being about £3600. The building is in the Italian style of architecture, boldly treated, and when finished will present a very pleasing and tasteful appearance. The school adjoining was erected in 1852.

Idle was "missioned" by the Primitive Methodist denomination in the year 1819, when a layman, named John Parkinson, from Leeds, preached the first sermon in the Towngate, from Acts ix. 4. The society was formed in the early part of the year 1820, and the members composing it worshipped in a house in John Pollard's croft, with part of the floor cut out, so that those in the chamber saw the preacher's head and those in the house only his legs! That place becoming too small the little congregation removed to another, built for them in Highfield Lane by John Hornby, where they worshipped for a time and formed a Sabbath school. In 1823 a site for a new chapel in Town Lane was bought of Mr. Beck, then residing at Park Hill, who also lent the money to build the chapel. The trustees were James Gregson, John Mitchell, William Lee, John Ibbetson, Jowett Thornton, James Berry, and Jonathan Firth. The total amount raised towards this undertaking, which cost near £500, was £16. Difficulties soon arising, the debt was left to John Mitchell, William Lee, and John Ibbetson to struggle with, but the cause grew, until, in the year 1860, the old chapel was pulled down to give place to the present structure, which cost about £1100, and was again altered and beautified at a cost of £300 in 1874. The chapel has been in Shipley circuit since 1860.

The Unitarian Chapel is a neat edifice situated in Highfield Lane, and is enclosed by its own grounds. This chapel was built in 1858, through the munificence of the late Mrs. Stephen Humble, of Quarry Cottage, in memory of her late husband, and handed over to trustees for the purpose of public worship, as usually conducted by the "Protestant Dissenters, called Unitarians." The late Miss Dawson, of Royds Hall, gave the land for both chapel and school. The cost of the chapel was about £1000. The Rev. Andrew McCombe was then minister. Services had previously been conducted for some years in two cottages in Quarry Cottage Yard and High Fleykes Lane. The school-room was erected in the year 1862, at a cost of about £500.

Idle possesses many natural advantages. The site is healthy and elevated, commanding fine views of the surrounding country. It also possesses many elements of wealth, three staple industries, and an energetic and industrious population. The Leeds and Liverpool Canal runs from one extremity of the township to the other. The Midland Railway also runs for a distance of two and a half miles through it, whilst by the high level branch of the Great Northern Railway Idle is placed in a straight line as the crow flies between London and Glasgow, and equi-distant from the two. Near to Bradford and near to Leeds, in the centre of the West Riding, and with other manifold advantages, Idle bids fair at no distant date to become a town of considerable importance.

As an old inhabitant truly remarked to us, "Windhill's in Idle, but Idle isn't Windhill." The boundaries of the township necessarily remain as they were when the Plumpton family held the whole lordship. Nevertheless, within the overgrown "hamlet" of Windhill a community has arisen whose sympathies are not Idle-wards, and whose very industry has been completely changed from the woollen to the worsted manufacture—a change the import of which can only be appreciated by those acquainted with the peculiarities of the two trades.

William Peel, the antiquary of Windhill Crag, who might be supposed to be an authority, assumed that Windhill took its name from a mound or hill at the junction of Airedale and Bradford-dale, which, being entirely unsheltered from the south-west wind, attained the name of "wind hill." We incline to the belief, however, that a more probable derivation would be from "winding hill," or "whin hill;" but into this region of speculation it is useless to wade. In old deeds dating as far back as 1565 it was called Windell. At that time the precipitous hillside—backed by native woods and having in the foreground a fine range of projecting rocks overhanging the valley—doubtless possessed a grandeur truly romantic and picturesque. The lower portion of the district, watered by the Bradford beck, then a powerful and pure stream, was of great fertility. Several references are made in the Cumberland Survey of 1583 to the "iron smythies," which were then situate near the beck, viz. :—

"It were requisite that every tenant according to the quantity of his tenure should yearly wall with stone or set with quickwood, certain roods of their fences, which would in time both benefit the tenants and the lord might then cut down the wood growing in their tenancy for coal (*i.e.*, charcoal) for the iron smythies, as the same shall hereafter be had in proper use."

"There is also within the said lordship of Idle four several parcels of waste lands, viz., the Over Moor, Thackley, Wrose Brow, and Gawcliff Crag. The latter joineth with the iron smythies and the town of Windell ; the same is full of stones and rocks, and containeth by estimation 30 acres."

"Note, that if the smythies were conveniently repaired and so maintained, and that there would be gotten ironstone within a mile or two of them, as it is thought there might be, the woods and springs within the said lordship might be orderly and well kept for maintaining the same with coles. Then would they yield a great benefit to the lord, and do the country great pleasure."

The "smythies," we believe, were situated at a point on the beck near to the Three-rise Locks, better known as "Tillotson's." Within the remembrance of persons living there was a place on the beck closely adjoining called "Smithy Ford," while the sides of the Crag above yet bear traces of an ancient highway leading down to the supposed site of the "iron smythies." Apparently either from lack of "cole" or iron-stone these primitive ironworks never attained to permanence.

In common with many romantic spots, Windhill or Gawcliff Crag has often afforded a subject for the "poet's song and sage's lore." The lofty escarpments have been peopled (in imagination) by Druid worshippers, the various hollows in the time-worn rocks being supposed to be rock-basins made by them to receive the water which fell from heaven ; while the cavities, at one time more numerous than now, are either associated with their sublime mysteries, or around them

" Float murmurs of mysterious crime
And tales of secret shame."

At the beginning of the present century they formed a hiding place for foxes, while innumerable rabbits sported among the brackens and brushwood which then abounded. Windhill Crag now presents but a sorry semblance of their ancient rude grandeur. Formerly they extended along what is now the main street to a point nearly opposite the Wesleyan Chapel, a great portion of which has been quarried, and the stone used for building purposes. The portion that remains undisturbed extends from Pricking Bridge to Three-rise Locks. Mount Carmel, better known as Rycroft's piece, once the retreat of Harry Town, the hermit, was situated here. On a piece of rough waste land old Harry erected a cottage, and managed to clear sufficient ground for a garden. His fund of humour and anecdote ; his buckle shoes and blue stockings, red waistcoat and yellow breeches, may yet be remembered by a few.

Windhill formerly consisted of half-a-dozen houses, two of them having gates attached to prevent the cattle from straying. At one of these gates sat a lame person. The place has long since become a

street, but still retains the name of Cripple Gate. Hall Lane, an ancient thoroughfare, led to Windhill Hall, which is still a good example of a substantial yeoman's residence of the olden time. Near at hand there is a cluster of houses called the Holt. As the situation of these tenements is destitute of wood (from which "holt" or "hoult" might have been derived), the probability is that the name was that of some former owner or occupier. From its position and surroundings there is little doubt that the Holt was one of the original settlements of Windhill. In 1752 the first Baptist services in the neighbourhood were held at the Holt.

As previously stated, the lordship of Idle, with the dependent hamlets of Windhill and Wrose, were for many generations the property of the Plumpton's; and from the Cumberland Survey, to which allusion has previously been made, we learn something of the original tenants of Windhill, and probably of the Holt.

The first tenant named in this invaluable record is Thomas Hall, who held one tenement, barn, and other buildings, and one oxgang of land, containing parcels bearing the following names, viz., High Close, Lea Close, Birkroyd, Hurleywell, Red Croft, the Hall Ing, &c., in all, 26a. 2r. op., for which he paid 15s. 8d. rental.

Hugh Yewdall and Peter Baytson held equal moieties of a messuage called "Windell," with all barns and other buildings belonging thereto, and one oxgang and three-quarters of land, comprising the following parcels, viz., the Henbanks, Laverack Royd, the Lea, Birkroyd, Brear Close, Old Royd, Far Hirst, Woody Hirst, Broad Ing, Meerflat, Ing-hole, the Carr, with common of pasture, &c. The tenement described as Windell was held by Hugh Yewdall and Peter Baytson jointly. Each of the tenants held 53a. 2r. of land, for which they paid the yearly rental of 16s. 3d. each.

Richard Wyllye, the next mentioned, was the tenant of the "iron smythies," which are described as standing upon the water called Bradford Beck, with a dwelling-house adjoining, an orchard, garden, and two crofts, containing 1a. 1r. The rental of the whole was 14s. 4d.

Thomas Wyllye had a cottage adjoining, for which he paid 1s. yearly. Robert Swaine and William Thomas had each a cottage and garden, paying 1s. 6d. and 2s. 4d. yearly. The total lord's rental for Windhill was thus £3 7s. 4d., but in addition the tenants were obliged to render to the lord of the manor of Idle one day's plowing, one day's mowing, and one day's shearing during the year.

We have before us a bundle of old deeds relating to the Windhill property of the last Earl of Cumberland, dated from 1579 to 1589, a

period during which that reckless yet heroic naval commander stood greatly in need of money. One refers to the sale of the above tenement called Windell, with the Henbanks and adjoining land described above, "for and in consideration of the som of nynty-four poundes and ten shyllinges of lawfull money," the purchasers being Hugh Yewdall, of Windhill, and Thomas Scott, clothier, of Oxenhope. The "Henbanks" was that portion of ground upon which the passenger station at Windhill now stands. In another deed, dated 1589, Christopher Bateson and Andrew his brother, sons of Peter Bateson, sold to Thomas Scott, in consideration of the "sum of twenty pounds lawful money," several parcels of land called Broad Ing, Meerflats, Meerflat-hole, and Old Royd, with common of pasture on Idle Moor, altogether about fifteen acres.

Judging by an old map, drawn in 1756 by John Smith, there were then few habitations at Windhill besides Windhill Hall and the Holt. At the bottom of Carr Lane, on an elevated mound on the south side, stood one or two dwellings. Stretching upwards to Wrose Brow and extending onwards for some distance along the road leading to the Craggs the land was all pasture or meadow, and belonged to one Simeon Kitson, who lived at the old homestead situated on the roadside at Wrose Brow, adjoining Mr. Field's land. The Kitson family were among the earliest residents at Windhill, and were probably yeomen independent of the lord of the manor. Jeremiah Kitson died in 1815, aged eighty years. He was well known in the district.

Another old portion of Windhill is that situated on the low ground near Wood-end. In fact, the ancient and dilapidated appearance of some of the existing tenements fully attests this, and there is little doubt that one or more of the seven tenants mentioned in the survey lived here. In 1774 we meet with the name of David Hill, who held a farm, and forty-five days' work of land, part of which was disposed of to Nathan Jowett, of Clockhouse, for £1070. The Hill family seem to have held the remaining portion until 1819, when Thomas Hill disposed of it to Mr. Thomas Leavens, of Apperley. Thomas Hill was the son of David Hill, and was a prominent man in his time. The original property of the Hill family comprised a large breadth of land stretching from the present stabling of the Great Northern Company down to Wood Bottom, but it seems to have "slipped through their fingers" without benefiting the later generation. Wood-end was then really the "end of the wood," which extended continuously round the face of the hill into the Apperley valley, and was the haunt of a noted highwayman, Newbrass by name. The thinly-populated quiet aspect

of Windhill at that time may be gathered from the fact that it was customary to blow a horn at the Holt when "bobbins" were required from Wood Bottom, where the Oddy family blended the labours of the spinning-wheel with those of the farm, as was the custom in "auld langsyne." The horn is now in the possession of Mr. Thomas Oddy, whose predecessors have for generations tenanted Wood Bottom, the property of Colonel Stansfield, lord of the manor. Although some increase had then taken place upon the half-score inhabitants of former times, the village was a very small one. Wood-end only numbered fourteen persons, of whom David Hill was the "great man." In fact, within the past fifty years not a single house existed on the upper side of Briggate to Crag End, notwithstanding the very ancient appearance of the Druid's Altar, the Roman Church, and clock tower, which attract the attention and puzzle the comprehension of passers-by along Briggate. What are called the Allotments at Wood End, were purchased by the Bradford Freehold Land Society about thirty years ago from David Mellor, and disposed of in small holdings to working men. This is now the best portion of Windhill.

Lane Bottom is another old quarter of Windhill, but is almost hid from view by the Queen Hotel and the adjoining shops. Formerly the principal inn—the King's Arms—was situated in the hollow behind the Queen Hotel, and the highroad passed in front of it.

The above enumeration will probably comprise the habitable portions of Windhill in the earliest phase of its existence. If such old homesteads as Dove's Hall, Wood Bottom, Wood Top Farm, Crimshaw, and Owlet Hall were added, it would complete the list of habitations up to a comparatively recent date. From the registers of Calverley church we learn the names of most of the older inhabitants, the dates given being those when the families named first baptised children there:—Verity, 1700; Tasker, 1660; Kitson, 1600; Pitts, 1720; Tillotson, 1730; Deacon, 1670; Hargreaves, 1630; Child, 1700; Hall, 1690; Hill, 1730; Bradley, 1759; Denbigh, 1668; Holmes, 1690; Naylor, 1745. The above were almost exclusively clothiers.

Having alluded to the baptisms at the parish church of Calverley we may mention that the weddings and funerals also took place there. In the case of weddings, where the families were in good circumstances, equestrian processions were often formed, that agreeable appliance of horsemanship called the "pillion" being indulged in. Generally two outriders went with the wedding party, and remained seated on their horses at the church gates. When the interesting ceremony was concluded, these riders at once set off at full gallop, each endeavouring

to beat the other home. The one fortunate enough to reach home first with the news was entrusted with a silver tankard containing ale, a new ribbon was attached to the handle of the tankard, and the winner of the race was permitted to present the tankard to the bride and bridegroom on their arrival. The ribbon he was allowed to wear himself during the marriage festival. This custom was very popular about eighty or a hundred years ago, and the road traversed at that time was down Calverley Carr, through the beck at Beck Bottom, up Green Lane and Eccleshill Bank, along Norman Lane, and by way of Wrose and Carr Lane to Windhill. It is needless to say that Carr Lane was at that time a dangerous road to descend at full gallop.

Sufficient having been stated as to the Windhill of olden times, we may next take a brief retrospect of its more recent history. As previously stated, the woollen trade was long the staple business of Windhill, the "all-wool" cloth of low qualities then made being sent off to Leeds market. The trade has now, however, drifted Leedswards, and left the village entirely. No, not entirely; for in the course of our peregrinations we wandered into a three-storeyed building in Briggate, the two upper floors of which being approached by stone out-steps, clearly indicated a clothier's establishment. Opposite a window sat a cozy, rosy-faced man leisurely examining a piece of flannel, which he did by drawing it over rollers betwixt himself and the light. The piece undergoing scrutiny was "all-wool," and, it is needless to say, it was hand-made. There are some things, we were complacently informed, that steam cannot accomplish,—“It cannot make shoddy cloth equal to all-wool; it cannot make cloth at all equal to hand-made. But it's nearly ovver wi' t'hand-trade at Windhill.” Appearances certainly indicated as much. Standing about the room were several old hand-looms, with dishevelled loom-tackling hanging about them, awaiting their doom as firewood. In the upper storey were other tipsy-looking looms awaiting a similar fate, excepting two in motion, which, less ricketty than the rest, added weft to warp in the old-fashioned, nicketty-nacketty way. It is impossible here to trace the decline of the cloth trade of Windhill. Suffice it to say that it flourished until the more spirited, better-paying trade of worsted took its place.

Of the old stamp of clothmakers the names given above comprise almost the whole. Eli Verity and his son John were clothiers and farmers at Windhill Hall; the Skirrows lived at Wrose; Jack Denby, David Denby (then spelt Denbigh), and Joe Halliday, at the Holt; Richard Denbigh, at Crimshaw; Ben Thomas, John Butterfield (the centenarian), the brothers Deacon, Moses Bell, and Ben Watmough

lived at Windhill. John, Samuel, and Miles Oddy were also clothiers and farmers. One of the family, named Miles, in early life qualified himself for the Baptist ministry, and was for forty-five years minister of the old Baptist Chapel at Haworth. Old Joseph Bateson and James Bateson, William Peel, Jack Parker, John Hall, Joshua Parker, Samuel Bradley, Joseph Pitts, James Laycock, Jonathan Tillotson, and William Thomas were hand clothiers of a somewhat later date. Old Joseph Bateson was the first man who made waste into cloth in Windhill. James Bateson attended Leeds market for sixty years. His sons, William and James, still "do a bit" in the old trade. We believe the link is missing connecting the present Batesons with the Peter Bateson of 1580, but the coincidence of the still existing name is strong presumptive evidence of a former connection. The family named Thomas are evidently descendants of the one named in the Cumberland Survey. A sturdy race were the old Windhill clothiers as, to the number of thirty or forty, they trudged off twice a week to Leeds market, stick in hand, discussing the merits of Lord Brougham, or some leading political topic. Although there were only three pronounced Tories in all Windhill at that time, political discussion was no mere byplay with these village politicians, the various phases of Liberalism affording ample scope for many a fierce and hot encounter.

The old Pricking Mill at Windhill was probably the first building erected on the stream near that village for manufacturing purposes, its first uses being for paper-making and scribbling. The latter business was carried on by old William Rycroft during last century, his nephew Joshua succeeding him both as owner and occupier. At that period the paper mill was worked by Samuel Bottomley, who died in 1811, when his daughter Martha carried on the business bravely and successfully until the mill was reduced to ruins by fire in 1816. One portion of the mill was at the period of the fire worked by Thomas Mitchell. In 1814 this mill let for £200 per annum. It remained in a ruinous state for twenty years, Joshua Rycroft not having enterprise sufficient to rebuild it, but he granted a lease to Joseph Hargreaves, of Frizinghall, and it was by him restored and enlarged. At the expiration of the lease Mr. Thomas Crabtree bought it of Rycroft's mortgagees, and it is now owned and worked by his son, Mr. Benjamin Crabtree, in the worsted business.

In 1809 Windhill Crag tanhouse, with adjoining land, belonging to Mr. Jonathan Barker, was sold to Mr. John Wood, a "worsit man," of Bradford, for £830, and by him let to Edward Charnley, tanner. In 1815 it was purchased of Mr. Wood by John Duckitt, of Windhill,

who built the corn mill opposite to Shipley railway station. The tannery was afterwards let to the Edmondsons, of Idle, and John Buck, of Bradford, and the corn mill to William Brear and Benjamin Murgatroyd. The late Mr. James Booth afterwards bought the premises, and the tannery has been converted into a steaming, busy dye-house, occupied by Messrs. James Shaw & Co. Just below, the slowly-revolving water-wheel of the old corn mill pours forth a stream of beck water, inky and grimy enough to invite an "injunction," and contrasting forcibly with the pure stream of former days. The intervening field between the beck and Shipley railway station is known as the "Potter-pits," or "Water-pits," and before the railway was made was noted as containing several medicinal springs of water.

Junction Mill was built by Joshua Taylor for worsted spinning, the site having been occupied by a malt-kiln long owned by his family. Mr. J. G. Taylor enlarged it to something like its present proportions, and it is now let to Messrs. William Fison & Co. Richard Bates, a former celebrity of some note, introduced boat-building shortly after the opening of the canal, and did "slubbing" at a little mill near the river side, belonging to the Jowetts. Thomas Lister followed Bates, and eventually the mill formed a portion of the present extensive works of Messrs. C. F. Taylor & Co. The boat-building trade, although not on an extensive scale, is far more brisk now than in Bates's time. In fact, we ought to consider navigation as one of the sources of industry at Windhill, for, since the opening of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal (an Act for which was obtained in 1767) and the Bradford Canal, considerable development has taken place. Mr. James Rhodes (a contractor for making one portion of the canal), and his three sons, Thomas, Abraham, and Benjamin, took the navigation from Bradford to Windhill in 1805. Old James Rhodes died at his house at Wood Top in 1817, aged eighty-two. As a man of integrity and urbanity his name will be long remembered with respect. In 1817 also, Mr. Joseph Priestley died at Bradford. He had held the situation of superintendent and principal agent of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal since its commencement in 1770.

About 1810, William Jennings bought Wood End Mill of John Wilkinson and Thomas Hill, the trustees of old Joseph Wilkinson, and converted it from a woollen into a worsted mill, after having enlarged it. It was afterwards bought by John Hall, and Messrs. T. and J. Hall now continue it in the same business. William Jennings, with his partners, Jeremiah Ambler and John Smith, did much to give life to the industry of Windhill. Besides being a stirring business man, Jennings was a well-known and energetic Methodist. After a

plodding, useful life, he died at eighty-four years of age, and is interred at Crag Chapel, Windhill.

The following list shows the existing business firms of Windhill, and with perhaps one exception, all their businesses are connected or immediately allied with the Bradford stuff trade:—Mr. Benjamin Crabtree, spinner and manufacturer; Mr. Miller Marshall, spinner and preparer; Messrs. Dawson & Co., spinners and weavers; Mr. George Deacon, manufacturer; Messrs. T. & J. Hall, spinners and manufacturers; Messrs. Fison, spinners and manufacturers; Messrs. James Shaw & Co., dyers and finishers; Messrs. Holdsworth & Holroyd, finishers; Mr. Thomas Booth, mohair merchant; Messrs. Harrison and Whitham, silk waste manufacturers; Messrs. Lee & Crabtree, machine makers. There are also extensive brickworks at Wrose Brow, the proprietors being Messrs. Kitson & Woodhead and Mr. Israel Thornton. The newly extended boundary granted to Windhill also includes the chemical works of Messrs. Illingworth, at Frizinghall, and the stone quarries at Gaisby worked by Messrs. Vint, Kendall and Neill.

A well-known tradesman of Windhill, named Sammy Cowling, demands a word before passing to another subject. Not only in Windhill, but throughout the district, Sammy was of all men perhaps the best known. He was an oil, top and yarn merchant, and farmer, and lived for some time at the house near the bridge occupied by Mr. John Dixon. He was the first Poor Law guardian for Idle, and that office, as well as the overseership, he held for a long time. He was also the lawyer, surveyor, scribe and confidant of half the country-side, and was in favour with both rich and poor. During the time when the magistrates sat at the Spotted House, Manningham Lane, Sammy was regularly in attendance to give advice, and many a knotty case too hard for the justices to decide was turned over to him. Sammy was a great upholder of our "glorious constitution," and was a Tory of the bluest water. A great stickler was he, in fact, for anything that he took in hand.

" When hard words, jealousies, and fears
Set folks together by the ears,"

Sammy was sure to be mixed up therein, either as champion or referee, and his "word was law." He married a daughter of Jeremiah Kitson, and died in 1852.

The school on Windhill Crag was built in 1811 by contributions from the inhabitants of Windhill and Wrose; John Milner, of Idle, being the mason. The school was opened in March, 1812. It was long known as the "new" school, as there had been two before it

—one at Lane Bottom, taught by old Parrish, and another at Gaisby, by Jonathan Watmough. Sammy Cowling was one of the principal promoters and subscribers of Crag School, and the late Mr. Joshua Taylor (who during some years held responsible offices in Windhill) had also an interest in it. The school has since been turned over to the Local Board, who meet in it, and continue to transact an amount of business quite out of proportion to the modicum of breathing space they allow themselves. The old building was long used as a Sunday school, Sammy Cowling being superintendent, but during a long course of years Matthew Thompson exerted himself in keeping up the efficiency of the school. Moses Lee also essayed to teach such of the youngsters of Windhill as chose to come to him on week-days. Moses was a quiet, unobtrusive man, and a great walker. It was no unusual thing for him to start off to Harewood Bridge and walk back again after school hours! John Clough, however, will be best remembered by the present generation. He was a kind and useful school-master, and educated half the Windhill of his day. Mr. Clough was, we believe, a native of Fulneck.

Allusion has previously been made to the curious pile of architecture in Briggate, known as "Billy Peel's place." William Peel was one of the early clothiers, and having made money sufficient to retire from business, aspired to be an antiquary. He certainly achieved some notoriety, and his monument still remains in the curious pile in Briggate. On one side is what the antiquary designed as a Druid's Altar, composed of stones collected from Windhill Crag, arranged "as near the original as history describes; that is, the Altar, Archdruid's Chair, and Mistletoe Table." To the right is what he intended as a "Roman Church and Vicarage." The clock in the adjoining tower was erected to the memory of the late Sir Robert Peel, and forming part of the inscription is the following powerful couplet:—

"When this clock doth strike the hour,
Think of the price of meal and flour."

The rustic building adjoining the church is the vicarage, part of the stone being obtained from York Minster. The church was designed by Mr. Peel, after the plan of an ancient Romish church. On the opposite side of the road Mr. Peel erected a substantial house for himself, which he called Crag Cottage, and during his residence there collected many genuine relics and some paintings of value, the chief of these being "The Incredulity of Thomas," painted by Benjamin West, the American Quaker. Other rooms contained mathematical and astronomical instruments, some of them being from the studio of the famous Abraham Sharp, of Horton. Mr. Peel was, unfortunately, a

large shareholder in the Leeds Bank, which failed in 1864. He became, therefore, a heavy contributor towards the realisation, and his antiquities, in fact all his effects, were brought to the hammer in October, 1865. He only survived the crash two years, and died at Kildwick in December, 1866, aged seventy-eight years. Mr. William Bateson is the present owner and occupier of Crag Cottage, and Mr. Bateson Peel, nephew of the late owner, owns the "old curiosity shop" opposite.

Christ Church, Windhill, was consecrated in August, 1869. The edifice is situated on elevated ground on the Shipley and Bramley Road. Windhill is in the parish of Calverley, and formed part of the ecclesiastical district of Idle; but, as the churches in those places are too far away, the efforts of the Rev. R. Keeling, who from the first has had charge of the district, assisted by local churchmen, were so successful as to procure the erection of Christ Church. Previously, services were conducted in a room at Windhill Wood-end, and the first step taken was the erection of the spacious school-rooms lower down the village street. These were opened in 1861, having cost about £1900, the whole of which was raised by subscription. The site was given by Mr. J. A. Jowett. The cost of the church was £4500, towards which Mr. M. W. Thompson, Mr. F. S. Powell, and Mr. Benjamin Wood contributed £250 each, and these gentlemen have since considerably added to their subscriptions. A grant of £500 was procured from the Ripon Church Building Society, and £120 from the Incorporated Church Building Society. The living, which is put down at £215, is in the gift of five trustees. An infant school was added to the National Schools in 1873, at a cost of £900.

The Wesleyan Chapel at Windhill, which is such a conspicuous object on the Crag, occupies the site of an older building erected in 1834. The new chapel is large in dimensions, and elegant and elaborate in appearance. It is of Italian design, and cost about £3500. Sitting accommodation is provided for about 930 persons. The nature of the ground also allows of commodious school premises beneath. The chapel was opened in April, 1865. The Methodism of Windhill, however, dates from 1781, at which period there was a society of ninety-one members.

The Primitive Methodists erected their chapel at Windhill in 1867, at a cost of about £3500, towards which not much had been promised at the laying of the foundation-stone. From small beginnings, and by means of those persistent endeavours so characteristic of the denomination, they have now arrived at a satisfactory position both financially and numerically. To Mr. John Hall, of Wood-end, must

be ascribed a prominent place among those who "worked early and late" in bringing about this result. The chapel is situated on the Shipley and Bramley Road. It is a neat and substantial edifice, seating about 600 persons, and has a lofty school-room and cottages beneath it.

The Independents have not hitherto succeeded in establishing a flourishing interest in Windhill, although they have had a place of worship in Leeds Road since 1856. The erection of the chapel was promoted by the congregation of the Upper Chapel, Idle, and originally cost about £800. It has since been remodelled and improved.

The Windhill Christian Institute was established about 1861 by a number of young men, and the present building was purchased soon afterwards. By their efforts a Sunday school, composed for the most part of children who had been previously neglected, has been taught. The building has been well used for services, and also as a news-room, &c.

In few places has the principle of co-operation obtained greater hold than at Windhill, and we may therefore fitly conclude this notice of the institutions of the place by a brief record of the Co-operative Society's operations there. This society was established in 1864 by about a dozen persons who met at the Young Men's Institute, and after much consultation commenced buying a few groceries, serving them out in the evening. They persevered, as many a little but earnest band has done before them, and, from that small beginning, the society has risen to its present position as second to none of the many industrial partnerships in Yorkshire. The first report published showed that the society had thirty-three members and a capital of £39 5s. 6d., the year's transactions showing a profit of £18 6s. 9d., the goods sold amounting to £205 10s. 7d. The society has now 2700 members, a share capital of above £13,000, and last year transacted a business amounting to £70,203, dividing in bonuses about £5542. Since the commencement of the society they have turned over £346,967, and have realised in profit £28,652. One principal event in the history of the society was the erection of the large stores at Windhill, costing £1200. This took place in October, 1868. The society have since built a store at Thackley, and in 1873 purchased the Lecture Hall at Shipley.

In 1855 Windhill was formed into a separate local board district, with Wrose, which together had previously formed part of the Idle Board of Surveyors' district. The members elected on the first Board were—Thomas Crabtree, John Dixon, Edward Brumfit, Thomas Parker, Thomas Whitaker, James Bateson, sen., John Hall, sen., Christopher Dibb, and George Bradley. Mr. Crabtree was appointed

chairman, and occupied that position for many years until he ceased to be a member. Mr. John Clough was clerk until his death, when Mr. Nathan Jowett, the present clerk, assumed that office. Although great exertions were put forth by a section of the Windhill people to sever their municipal connection with Idle, on the plea that the new district could the better govern itself, twenty years' independence still finds Windhill draining into the rocks, without any scheme for otherwise disposing of sewage, and lacking many requirements attaching to such a growing community. Appearances, however, now augur much better for the future. In September, 1874, in response to an application of the Local Board, the Local Government Board granted an extension of the municipal boundary, to be taken from the Idle district. This extension gives an increased area of 500 acres, making the present area 750 acres, and increasing the rateable value by upwards of £3000. The new district is co-extensive with the ecclesiastical boundary of Windhill, and takes in, northwards, the two railways, the canal, and half the river Aire down to Newmarket; Westfield Lane, eastwards; and Trap Syke and Gaisby Lane bottom, southwards. The advantage thus gained, if only for administrative purposes, is obvious. The length of public carriage road taken from Idle is 3216 yards. The Board have also obtained borrowing powers, amounting to £14,670, repayable in sixty years, £4500 of which is to be expended in reconstructing Pricking Bridge and widening Windhill Bridge. A considerable sum is also put down for street improvements; but, such was the former absence of building regulations, coupled with the awkward and precipitous nature of the ground, that little can be hoped for in "improving" the existing habitable portion of Windhill. Many of the houses are four and five storeys in height. The rateable value of Windhill is £14,773, and the estimated population 6500. There was raised by rates last year £1177. The present Local Board is composed of the following members:—Benjamin Crabtree (chairman), James Bateson, Firth Dawson, William Pickard, Thomas Denby, Fred. W. Booth, John Wilcock, William Shaw, and James Shaw. Water is supplied by arrangement with the Shipley Local Board, and gas is obtained from the Shipley Gas Company.

The little hamlet of Wrose lies breezily on the high land above Windhill. The few houses there are chiefly of ancient date, and are clustered in an irregular manner round an open piece of waste ground called the Green. Years ago, when the surrounding district had more of the agricultural and less of the manufacturing element—when Shipley was a place little larger than Wrose, and Windhill was an

undefined locality ; when even thriving Bradford had few pretensions to a town—the people of Wrose pursued the “even tenour of their way,” contented in their airy position with things as they were. The fresh sward of the Green was to them both highway and causeway, so long as its verdancy was kept up, and highway collectors and others of that ilk were kept away. In course of time, however, more traffic found its way even to Wrose, and the Green became a puddle—to such an extent that in 1867 the inhabitants found it necessary to “mend their ways,” and a vigorous effort was made to improve the appearance of the Green. Having obtained the consent of the lord of the manor, Mr. W. R. C. Stansfield, they formed a committee and accomplished their purpose. To commemorate the occasion, an elm tree was planted in the centre of the Green by the late Mrs. Rycroft, of Wrose, and it is now thriving well.

This was perhaps the most important event which has happened at Wrose in recent times. Perched upon the top of a hill almost unapproachable for vehicular traffic from the Windhill side, the hamlet has made little headway since it was first surveyed, along with the rest of the township lands of the Earl of Cumberland, in 1583. At that time we learn that a portion of Wrose was not enclosed, but was held by the tenants in six parcels, bearing the following names :—The East Field, New Earth, Stonepit Field, Field-at-Dore, Oak Field, and Long Flat. The tenants had also common of pasture “by bite of mouth” for their cattle in Appletree Wood, and likewise in the spring called Strobe Syke. The following extract shows better than other words could describe the state of things then existing :—“The tenants at Wrose cannot well agree among themselves for the division of their common fields, which is to their great hindrance, for that their ground be cold and bare, which doth increase the barrenness of the soil, which thing many divisions would help to remedy. Besides this, scarcity of water doth greatly hinder their purpose, and yet the division, skilfully made, might help that inconvenience also.” The names of the tenants were as follow :—Thomas Sowden, who with the rest held his land by lease from Sir Ingram Clifford, uncle of the Earl of Cumberland ; Sowden held thirty-four acres, with tenement, in the Town Ing, for 13s. ; John Swaine had thirty-three acres called Newby Stirrups, Bracken Ing, &c., for 13s. ; Thomas Walker had thirty-eight acres at West Croft, Royds, &c., for 12s. ; John Stephenson had forty-one acres at Carr Butts, Town Ing, &c., for 15s. Janet Walker and Richard Sowden had each a cottage and two crofts for 3s. and 1s. yearly. Each of the tenants had an orchard attached to his holding. The total lord's

rental of Wrose at that time was £2 19s. 4d. In the Calverley registers the names of other Wrose families appear, some of whom must have been freeholders, viz. :—Wright, from 1724 ; Scurrah or Skirrow, from 1660 ; Craven, from 1580 ; Long, from 1660 ; Dawson, from 1577 (for forty years a branch of this family resided at Rock-cliff) ; Greenwood, from 1712 ; Armitage, from 1600 ; Unwin, from 1688 ; Atkinson, from 1588 ; Ackroyd, from 1700 ; Bower, from 1654 ; Hodgson, from 1650 ; Birch, from 1654 ; Mitchell, from 1712 ; Marshall, from 1595 ; and Senior, from 1760. Many of the above were clothiers and farmers, but few of the names are now found at Wrose.

John Oddy, of Wrose, broke up the first common land in 1810 at a place called New Earth Hole, belonging to Joshua Crompton, Esq. He resided at a house bearing the initials T. and M. S., for Thomas and Mary Slater, of Apperley. The house was sold by William Storey to William Hodgson, a clothier and farmer. The Hodgsons were amongst the oldest and most respected of Wrose families, the last male representative being William Hodgson, who died in August, 1875, while at Blackpool. William Hodgson had served the township for many years as overseer, collector, &c., and whether in his public or private capacity had enjoyed the esteem of all who knew him. He had a great love for his native hamlet, and possessed many documents relating to it.

Sammy Hardaker, of High Ash, was another well-known Wroseite. He lived to fully ninety years of age. High Ash was previously the residence of Benjamin and William Stephenson, ancestors of the Bros. Stephenson, oil merchants, of Bradford. John Stephenson, it will be noticed, was one of the Earl of Cumberland's tenants in 1583. Joshua Woodhead, succeeded by his son, Ezra Woodhead, also lived at High Ash. The two latter were stewards to Joseph Dawson, minister at Upper Chapel, Idle, afterwards of Low Moor, who had extensive coal mines on Idle Moor and at Wrose. In 1812 we read :—"Mr. Joseph Dawson settled his coals at Wrose Pit from sevenpence to sixpence a load." House rents at that time must also have been somewhat more reasonable than now. From the same old document it appears that "John Bell bought of William Hodgson, of Wrose, four houses at the price of £128." The house dated 1616, and initialed T C I C, was freehold property of the Cravens, who date from about 1560. Thomas Craven purchased of the Earl of Cumberland a mesuage at Wrose, of the yearly value of 12s., for £41. The Wilcocks, now of Owllet Hall, were previously of Wrose, and were among the earliest Baptist families in the neighbourhood.

The most celebrated Wrose family, however, is that of the Dawsons. Dating their ancestry from a very early period, the Dawsons have maintained an uninterrupted succession to the present time, and have religiously preserved the family name of Martin. There have been not fewer than thirteen generations of Martin Dawsons, one of them being the oldest of nine brothers. Martin Dawson, a solicitor, was partner with his uncle, Mr. Barber, of Bradford, and built the present family residence at Wrose upon the site of a former ancient tenement. He married a Miss North, member of a Quaker family of Bradford. Their only son, Martin Dawson, who was a captain in the 2nd West York Militia, died a bachelor at an early age, leaving as representatives of the senior line his sisters, the late Mrs. Rycroft, Mrs. Mossman, and Mrs. Whitley. The only surviving brother of Martin Dawson, solicitor, named John, married Sarah Kitson, of Windhill, and removed to Heaton Royds. At his death he left a numerous family, of whom his eldest son was Martin, and he left a son Martin, now living at Heaton. The other sons of John were named Brooksbank and Benjamin, both of whom have representatives in the neighbourhood. From the marriage of Mary Dawson with Benjamin Rycroft, of Rockcliff, was descended the late Mr. Dawson Rycroft, solicitor, and the present Miss Rycroft. Through this relation, therefore, the family are connected with the Steads, and through them with the Sandalls, supposed to have been one of the earliest families in Idle. At Wrose Hall some very valuable antique furniture, including a curiously carved bedstead said to have been originally brought from Sandall Castle; a secretaire, cabinet, plate, &c., belonging to the Sandalls, are preserved. The following curiosity we copied from an old family book of the Dawsons. It has a two-fold interest, as showing the importance of the family at the date referred to, and as some indication of the value of eatables at that period. The extract is headed—

“The accounts of Martin Dawson funeral, who departed this life April 23, 1748:—Payd for winding, 8s. 6d.; do. for spices, 12s. 5d.; do. for mutton, 5s. 8d.; do. more, 4s.; do. a pigg, 2s. 6d.; do. pigeons, 1s. 6d.; do. mutton, 5s.; a ham of bacon, 9s. 8d.; 7 henns, 4s. 4½d.; butter, 10lb., 5s.; 10½ gals. of ale, 10s. 6d.; sallett, 6d.; pipes and tobacco, 6d.; saman, 5 pound, 3s. 4d.; turbat, 7 pound, 3s. 4d.; oranges, barm and bread, 1s. 10d.: for veal to John Hodgson, 9s. Paid for 5 doz. plates, 1s. 5½d.; for the cook, 3s.; for his coffin, 10s. 6d.; vicar dues for burial; total, £5 4s. 7d.”

Feasts at funerals were an ancient custom at that period, especially in the North, and the practice is not now wholly discontinued. Not very long ago, in a village near at hand, a dinner was provided for nearly

two hundred guests ! A portion of the old family property of the Dawsons, situate at Heaton Royds, was sold in 1809, to Joshua Field, Esq. The old school at Wrose was built by subscription in 1830 on ground given by the three Misses Dawson.

There has been no increase in the number of houses at Wrose within living memory, old houses having been pulled down for those more recently built. As showing the antiquity of the buildings there, it may be mentioned that the house now occupied by William Ward, dated 1616, has its western gable built into a barn of much older date. That barn was connected with a similar structure until about five years ago, when Mr. W. B. Woodhead purchased and rebuilt it. The whole of the roof was of oak, and much of it had been tennoned and morticed and used for some building prior to the barn, showing that the wood was probably 500 years old. It was sound when taken down, and was used in the new building. Prior to 1810, when the moor was enclosed, horse races were annually held on the moor. The "starting post" was near to a farmstead which is still called the "Starting Stoop."

Wrose and the breezy uplands adjoining might be favourable to long life, judging by the following list of veterans who have passed away within recent times, viz. :—William Senior, aged 82 ; Old Hammond, 82 ; Billy Dawson, 84 ; John Northrop, 87 ; John Bradley, 88 ; William Pullan, 83 ; Nancy Pullan, 87 ; Samuel Hardaker, 90 ; Ben Harrison, 90 ; John Oddy, 90 ; Joseph Burnley, 90 ; Hannah Barrett, 96. The list might doubtless be extended.

Thackley is situated upon the pleasant uplands through which passes the tunnel of the Midland Railway to Leeds, and it is cut off from Idle by the Great Northern branch line from Shipley to Laisterdyke. The old road from Shipley to Leeds, and the new highway constructed in 1826 by the celebrated Macadam, also pass through it. This portion of the township is, therefore, intersected by two highways, two iron-ways, and two water-ways—the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the river Aire. Although the hamlet possesses features of undoubted interest, our notice of it must be confined to a few stray notes, chiefly referring to a past generation of men and things, which otherwise might pass into oblivion. But a faint idea of the former fertility and loveliness of Thackley can now be gathered, owing to the considerable "hacking" to which it has been subjected by the inexorable hand of man. A great breadth on the eastern side was enclosed as the deer park of the Plumptions, and in this portion the least alteration is observable. Before the construction of the Leeds

and Bradford Railway a Roman urn was found in a field near to Brown's Wood, the charcoal therein being quite fresh and palpable. A large quantity of dross has also been turned up near the old work-house, indicating pretty clearly the existence of iron workings in the neighbourhood at some remote period.

Long before the clothing trade got a footing in Idle (supposed to have been about the middle of the seventeenth century) the tanning of leather was carried on at Thackley by the Swaynes, who were Quakers, and who both at Idle and Thackley held lands under the Cliffords. Probably the most notable buildings still in existence are those bearing their initials, viz., B. S.—1681; and I. S.—1691. The above are copied from the present frontage to the houses owned by Mr. William Brown; but even a casual observer may perceive that the buildings in the rear are of still more ancient date. The drying-rooms of the tannery still remain, overshadowed by an immense walnut tree—this being at the time of our visit in full bearing. The tanpits, which almost covered the field (still called Tanhouse Field) between the tannery and Messrs. Raistrick's new mill, have long since been ploughed up. By the roadside, which formerly ran in front of these premises, there stood an elm tree five or six yards in circumference, from the decaying trunk of which there is now growing a young elm, which bids fair to attain the dimensions of the parent tree. Swayne's property was acquired by William Smith, also a Quaker, who came from Calton, near Gargrave, and who set apart a corner of one of his fields as a burial-place for his family for ever. The date of its dedication was 1790. Dr. Rawson, of Idle, married a daughter of this William Smith, and after his death she became the wife of William Brown, previously mentioned as a cloth-cropper in Idle Town Lane.

Not a few of the older houses of Thackley retain their ancient appearance, with out-steps leading to the loom-chamber above. One of these, at Birk Hill, was long tenanted by Joshua Hutton, who was succeeded by his son James. Another son, Thomas, lived and laboured at North Hall. Both properties belong to Colonel Stansfield, the lord of the manor. In the one at Birk Hill James Hutton was born, and in it he died at the age of 77. This is known also as Clegg House, from a former tenant, and is at present occupied by Mr. Jonas White. A story attaches to this old place to the effect that Clegg periodically "cam ageean," or was reputed to do so, after he had shuffled off his leather breeches and buckle-shoes, but not a glimpse of him has the present tenant been able to get. A new source of unearthly gossip has, however, lately sprung up about Clegg House, opening up a somewhat puzzling question. Two or three months ago

it was discovered that the "milk-stone," *i.e.*, a large slab in the cellar on which the milk-bowls were kept, had some curious lettering upon it, which the Solons of the neighbourhood were unable to decipher. As the face of the slab on which these letters were was turned downwards, some contortion was necessary in order to approach within reading distance. By the aid of a candle, however, we traced on the dank, dripping stone the words, "Here lyeth the body of Christopher Freckelton, of Heaton, who dyed—" The rest was entirely illegible, but sufficient had been made out to set on foot the inquiry—first, who was Christopher Freckelton? and next, how came his tombstone in such a position? The mystery is yet unsolved, as neither the present tenant nor those who had known the house for fifty years knew of its existence. The letters bear the appearance of those used about 1600 or 1650, and that being a period during which many persons were interred in private burial-places, doubtless this mysterious gravestone had been dug up from some field or garden in the neighbourhood and utilised as above described.

In addition to the Huttons, James Alred, and William Glover, of Burnwell, were also well-known clothiers of the old stamp. Park House recalls the names of—Benson, John Burnley, Benjamin Beck, and George Illingworth. The Benson family were in the wool business and went to Leeds. John Burnley was at one time a prosperous clothier, but was the unfortunate victim of a robbery at Park House, which injured his future prospects. Benjamin Beck was in no business. The representatives of his son, Dr. Beck, still retain the property. Park Lodge was the residence of Mr. Joseph Hepworth, a surveyor, as was also his son Joseph. The latter never followed the profession, but aspired to be a justice of the peace, an honour, however, which he failed to attain. He was well known at Idle, and was often the subject of much practical joking. Two of his sons were in the medical profession, one of whom, a staff surgeon in the army, died in Alexandria a few years since whilst returning from India.

The old malt-kiln at Birk Hill introduces us to others whose names are still "familiar as household words" at Thackley. Among these are Nathan Jowett, maltster, who was killed by falling from his horse, and Jim Brayshaw, maltster, clothier, and farmer. He was grandfather of the present Brayshaws of Idle, and had a son, Timothy, a clergyman, and another, John, a shopkeeper. The old man had a wonderful fund of information about the district with which his name has been so long associated. He removed to Simpson Green, and died about a dozen years ago. His father, also named James, formerly lived at Park Hill, but died at Idle, at the ripe age of 87, he and his

wife Martha being buried on the same day. At the time of his death old James was a great-great-grandfather and his wife a great-great-grandmother. They left a progeny altogether of one hundred and twenty-six. John Raistrick, a clothier and farmer, lived at Birk Hill, in a freehold tenement not belonging to the lord of the manor. Near to Mr. Watmough's house a horse-gin was formerly used for carding wool, and in the lane leading thereto there is a well called "Leodus Well," in which the wool was cleansed. Probably a small dyehouse stood close by. The Sun Inn, Park Hill, was noted as the residence of John Bakes, who did a little business in addition as "planet ruler." It was always said that Bakes foretold that something would cross Thackley of an artificial construction, but the vision was so obscure that he could not define what it would be. When the railway tunnel was made, however, the "believers" easily solved the problem. The old Bowling Green at Thackley was used formerly as a place for drilling the volunteers, which at Idle numbered 64 men. Walter Fawkes, Esq., of Farnley, was colonel, Christopher Edmondson, captain, and Stead Rycroft, lieutenant. Sergeant Berry was also a notable character in connection with this movement.

At Thackley was for many years located the old Workhouse, but this was vacated when the new Union house at Clayton was erected in 1858. The contrast between the two places is striking, and may be said to represent in some measure the difference between the old and, we are glad to say, obsolete system of treating the poor and that inaugurated by the new Poor-law. We have before us an account of the money disbursed by James Booth, overseer, towards erecting the Thackley workhouse, from which it appears that it was built in 1765. Some curious items of expenditure occur, as for instance :—

	£	s.	d.
Spent on William Dufton when the roof was fest ... ..	...	0	1 0
Spent on John Dixon when the plaistering was fest ... ..	...	0	0 6
Spent when we met to order about wood ... ..	...	0	2 0
Spent when the floors were gotten up ... ..	...	0	5 0
Payd Mary Barker for 2500 bricks at 11s. per 1000 ... ..	...	1	7 6
Payd William Tebs for 50 load of lime at 1s. 1d. per score ... ..	...	2	12 6
Payd Robert Fawsitt for 8 pair blankets at 6s. 9d. ... ..	...	2	14 0

The bill of costs amounted to £104 10s. 1d. In 1790 a stable was added, costing £34 17s. 10d., Miles Oddy being then overseer. Nearly opposite to the old workhouse is the extensive new cloth mill built by Messrs. Raistrick, affording another object of comparison, between the old style of cloth manufacture and the new. The Wesleyan Chapel at Cross Roads was built in the year 1856, and an addition was made to it in 1873.

SIXTH DISTRICT.

ESHOLT—PARKGATE—HAWKSWORTH—RAWDON.

DESPITE the rapidly progressing encroachments of commercial enterprise there are a few places "round about Bradford" where nature presents somewhat of its old "form." One of these places is the district comprising Esholt and Hawksworth. Assuming some fellow-rambler to have emerged from the subterranean railway platform at Apperley, he will almost instinctively find his way into the magnificent avenue called Esholt Walk (the trees comprising it being chiefly Dutch elms), and here his expanding vision will doubtless experience a real delight. At the extremity of this natural vista is the substantial and elegant mansion called Esholt Hall. The River Aire, which scarcely now would

"tempt the passenger to stay
And taste the cooling flood,"

sweeps past the lawn in front. Behind are wooded slopes and boldly sheltering hills,

"A lovely contrast with the vale below."

The site of Esholt Hall is in many respects well chosen. Standing at the bend of the valley, the hall commands from each of its three façades a lovely if not extensive view. To conceive of the primitive aspect of the landscape, however, we must revert to a period just seven hundred years ago, when in 1172 a place of the name of Escheholt, in Airedale, was confirmed by a bull of Alexander III. to the nuns of Sinningthwaite, near Wetherby, in the neighbourhood of which a nunnery was founded shortly afterwards. *Esche* or ash, and *holt* or wood, clearly indicate that at that period the site of the nunnery was in the immediate vicinity of an "ash wood." Even yet many venerable ash trees are found in the vicinity of Esholt.

The founders of the little nunnery of Esholt were Galfred Haget, who gave two carucates of land at Esholt, and Simon Ward, and William, his son, who gave the site of the monastery. The Wards were the great family of Guiseley up to the 16th century, when the name disappeared. For several generations they were generous patrons of the little convent. The names of Sir Simon Ward, and of his son-in-law, Walter de Hawksworth, who married Sir Simon's daughter Beatrice, *temp.* Edward III., are to be found as

witnesses to many of the ancient charters. It was the Cistercian order of devotees to which the little nunnery of Esholt belonged, Fountains and Kirkstall Abbeys being then their chief centres. The Esholt nunnery, dedicated to the Virgin and St. Leonard, was under the supervision of the Abbot of Kirkstall. Mysterious rumours exist of a certain underground passage from Esholt to Kirkstall—an idle tale such as generally attaches to old places like these. On the other hand, it needs not a very lively imagination to picture the rosy-faced Abbot of Kirkstall, while on a visit to his charge, leisurely ambling up the valley on his sleek palfrey, and sniffing the morning air like any other man. The nunnery was only founded for six nuns, at least that was the number it contained at the time of the dissolution. The priory was not a rich one : the gross amount of its revenue being £19 os. 8d. in the 26th of Henry VIII., and from that deductions were made which only left £13 5s. 4d. at the disposal of the nuns. By the charity of the pious and generous, however, the fair *religieuses* were enabled to materially increase their revenues. Their great patrons, the families of Ward, Calverley, and Plumpton, had all possessions near at hand, and doubtless would not let the religious house suffer. Hence we meet with extracts from old charters as follows :

“ Robert, son of Robert de Plumpton, gave all his land, &c., in Idle, with pasture for oxen, and dry wood and acorns in the wood of Idle, upon condition that the nuns shall find a chaplain perpetually to celebrate for the good of his ancestors and his heirs.”

“ Nigel, son of Robert de Plumpton, gave to the prioress a meadow lying next to that which Nigel, his grandfather, had given, and confirmed all that his ancestors had given. He also with his corpse gave all his lands beneath the essarts called Eholm, Strangford, and Aldrodwode, in this territory. He also gave pasture in the wood of Idel for 32 oxen, 20 cows, and 1 bull, and for 60 hogs every year without pannage, and likewise gave the dry wood for burning to be set apart for his forester.”

By an Inquisition of 1st Edward III. John de Calverley, who had married Johanna, another daughter of Sir Simon Ward, did “ give and assign the manor of Esholt to his beloved in Christ the prioress and nuns of Esholt in Airedale, in free, pure, and perpetual alms.” John de Yedon gave an annuity of three marks out of his mill at Yeadon towards the support of one chaplain to this priory, who should also celebrate mass thrice each week for the soul of the said John and his wife. He also gave one oxgang in the said territory. There is an old corn mill in Yeadon Gill, now disused, but still in the tenancy of William Fishburn, whose history, it is said, can be traced back 500 years. Probably this is the old mill referred to. In a noteworthy old house not far from this mill Jeremy Collier, the celebrated divine, was born and lived. Esholt Priory also enjoyed lands and rents at

Burley, Guiseley, Hawksworth, Otley, &c. Numerous interments took place within the priory grounds, including those of Sir Simon Ward, Sir John Ward, Nigel de Plumpton, and several members of the house of Calverley. Many bones have been dug up, some even recently, a little beyond the present house, near where the priory church stood. Of one or other of the above families some daughter was constantly an inmate of the priory, while of the house of Calverley one or more prioresses bore the name. The last prioress was Elizabeth Pudsey. A singular inscription, which has been construed into "Elizabeth Pudsey, Prioress," still remains upon a stone (supposed to have formed part of a tombstone) which has been built into the laundry at the back of the hall. The representation of a bird, which is perched upon the last letter, has considerably puzzled antiquaries.

The priory was dissolved with the lesser houses on August 29, 1540, and remained in the hands of the Crown for nine years, when the site was granted to Henry Thompson, one of Henry VIII.'s gentlemen-at-arms, who had distinguished himself at the siege of Boulogne. In the Thompson family it remained somewhat more than a century, when it was transferred to the neighbouring house of Calverley by the marriage of Frances, daughter and heiress of Henry Thompson, Esq., with Sir Walter Calverley, by which means he became possessed of that beautiful estate, so nearly connected with his own family while it retained its monastic character. His son, Sir Walter Calverley, Bart., having married Julia, the daughter of Sir William Blackett, built, in the earlier part of last century, a magnificent house, and planted the fine avenue of elms which has since become such an attractive feature. Along this approach the house is seen to great advantage, with two fronts of dressed stone, rather too little elevated, but charmingly backed up by native woods. It is not improbable that till the general demolition of the buildings by Sir Walter Calverley much of the priory continued in its original state. To the outward observer nothing now remains to indicate that a religious house once occupied the site. An inspection of the basement of the mansion, however, clearly demonstrates that at least one portion of the house has been reared over what was the ground floor of the old nunnery, and the present mansion has been judiciously elevated to that level. The groined roof and arched windows of the cellars belong to a period long anterior to that ascribed to the erection of Esholt Hall.

Sir Walter Calverley, the builder of the present house, died in 1749, and left a son of his own name, who on succeeding to the estate took the name of Blackett, and sold his Calverley estate to Thomas

Thornhill, Esq., of Fixby. In 1755 he also sold the manor, house, and furniture of Esholt to Mr. Robert Stansfield, of Bradford, drysalter, in the line of whose collateral descendants it has passed to the present time. Robert Stansfield dying without issue, the Esholt estate descended to his sister Anne, wife of Wm. Rookes, Esq., of Royds Hall, whose ancestors had resided there for near 300 years, and prior to that at the Rookes, near Norwood Green. At their death, the estate again passed in the female line to their daughter Anna Maria, who married Joshua Crompton, Esq., of Derby, at whose death it descended to William Rookes Crompton, who took the name of Stansfield, and from him it has passed to his nephew, W. H. C. Stansfield, a lieutenant-colonel in the 2nd Battalion 11th Regiment, who has served in the Black Watch in the Crimea, and has also seen service at the Cape of Good Hope.

The Esholt estate comprises about 2000 acres, and includes, in addition to many farms, Buck Mill, in Idle, the two woollen mills at Guiseley known as the Old Mill and Gill Brow Mill, and other valuable manufacturing premises. The River Aire flows for nearly three miles through the estate. For upwards of a century Col. Stansfield and his predecessors in title have kept up Esholt Hall as their family mansion, and have expended large sums in improving and beautifying the estate. The trees and shrubs in the ornamental grounds are many of them beautiful specimens, notably the purple beeches, the magnolia, and tulip trees. Skirting the edge of the River Aire for some distance is what is known as the "Nun's Walk." If the river is not now a "pure and limpid" stream, it once approached to that condition, for in June, 1821, we read that Mr. Crompton "caught with a hook and line the largest trout yet found in the River Aire, weighing seven pounds, a drawing of which, life-size, was made by Miss Crompton."

The late W. R. C. Stansfield, Esq., was at one time M.P. for Huddersfield. Upon acquiring the Esholt estate, he in 1832 built the present porch and otherwise improved the mansion. He lived at Esholt for some years, but on the construction of the Leeds and Bradford Railway, in 1846, he took very unkindly to its intrusion upon his estate, and again in 1860, when the Ilkley and Otley line was proposed, he resisted the Midland Company in Parliament, lost his case, and in 1861 purchased the Frimley Park estate in Surrey. He died in December, 1871, at Frimley, and Mrs. Stansfield survived him until last year. The hall has been let to several gentlemen, among whom may be named Sir Andrew Fairbairn and the late Mayor of Bradford, Mr. Henry Mitchell. The names of the principal rooms are still

preserved, as the Calverley Room, the Rookes Room, &c. ; and there is a fine old oak staircase. The Oak Room, however, is the chief object of attraction, the carving therein having been executed by a master hand. In this room, and also in the Billiard Room, there is a rare collection of old china and porcelain.

Esholt is a township in Otley parish, and with Hawksworth forms a separate parish for ecclesiastical purposes. The village is approached from Esholt Springs by a highroad in the rear of the hall, and from the Otley Road by a similar highway branching from it at the foot of Hollins Hill. We are thus precise in our description of the principal approaches because of the secluded situation of the little village. Visitors to it from the direction of Esholt Walk will doubtless linger for a while admiring the natural beauties of Spring Wood. Almost hidden in the recesses of the wood there is a ruined mill which an artist might deem a fit subject for his pencil, but there is nothing romantic about its history. It was last occupied by the Henshaw Mill Company, but was closed about thirty-seven years ago by the late Mr. Stansfield, owing to the damage done to the trees around. The little cottage in the hollow of the ravine was a charity school supported by Joshua Crompton, Esq., and his daughters taught in it on Sundays. It was the first Sunday school in the neighbourhood. The memory of these good ladies is yet preserved about Esholt.

Following the road through Belmont Wood the visitor will shortly arrive at the new works of the Shipley and Guiseley Railway, which forms a junction at this point with the Ilkley line. Our purpose, however, being to visit Esholt village, we take the road in the rear of the hall, and pass the Boggard House—so named because it was some time untenanted, and the simple rustics in the neighbourhood imagined that they saw lights in the house after the death of a person named Strothers. These were said to be seen during the “witching time of night, when churchyards yawn ;” and it was believed that Strothers’ spirit, while visiting his old home, amused itself by playing at marbles with other wandering ghosts ! Hence the name of Boggard House.

The most interesting relic of ancient times in the village of Esholt is the Old Hall, which, although doubtless existing in the time of the Priory, seems to have been overlooked by antiquarians. Formerly a moat encompassed this ancient structure, but of it few traces are now visible. The massiveness and extent of the edifice clearly indicate it to have been a mansion of some importance in its day, and documentary evidence exists showing that it was once the property of Sir Nicholas Sherburne, who, according to Thoresby, was a “stiff

Papist." This Sir Nicholas Sherburne (or Shireburn) was of an ancient Catholic family, whose princely mansion was Stonyhurst, near Blackburn. Whether they were resident at Esholt before acquiring the Stonyhurst estate we have failed to discover. A Sir Richard Sherburne, however, in the latter part of the reign of Edward III., married Alice, daughter of William de Plumpton, and, from the circumstance that the Plumptons had large possessions in the neighbourhood of Idle, and occasionally resided there, it is not improbable that the Sherburne-Plumpton alliance resulted from the first-named family being at that time resident at Esholt Old Hall. Sir Nicholas Sherburne went to reside at Stonyhurst in 1695. He was the last of his name, and by his will, dated 1717, he bequeathed Stonyhurst House to his wife, Catherine; and the reversion of it and his estates in Guiseley and Esholt, together with his large property in Lancashire, to his daughter, the Duchess of Norfolk. Stonyhurst House afterwards became the property of Thomas Weld, Esq., who, in 1794, converted it into a Roman Catholic Seminary. In his will Sir Nicholas Sherburne left a dole of £6 to be divided between Guiseley and Esholt, and this is still received yearly from the treasurer of Stonyhurst College. Somewhat singularly, the Old Hall now belongs to three separate owners—Colonel Stansfield, Mr. M. W. Thompson, and Mr. Arthur R. White, whose predecessors purchased it in 1819.

The residents of Esholt village are mostly factory workers, engaged in the worsted and woollen trades. Messrs W. Yewdall & Son occupy the woollen mill formerly tenanted by Miss Cooper, and Mr. W. J. Sallitt runs the worsted mill built in 1816 by Thomas Harper, which, with a nice farmstead, was left by him to his nephew, Mr. Matthew Mitchell, the father of Henry Mitchell, Esq., of Bradford. The business, however, was established by the firm of John Bell & Co., of which Matthew Mitchell was a partner, and for many years gave employment in hand spinning to the neighbourhood. John Bell was a remarkably frugal man and plodding manufacturer. Formerly there stood an old fulling mill on the lawn in front of Esholt Hall. Ellis Cunliffe, whose eldest daughter was married to the late Mr. Isaac Wright, of Bradford, for many years occupied the tannery at Bunker's Hill. The little village boasts a substantial inn, called the Commercial, which was kept for many years by Thomas Gill. For a community comprising about four hundred persons the religious and educational appliances are somewhat ample. There is a church, a Wesleyan chapel, a Primitive Methodist preaching-room, a day school, and a public reading-room. The neat church of St. Paul's was built in 1842

by the late W. R. C. Stansfield, Esq., but was not consecrated until 1852, when the present incumbent, the Rev. F. R. Mills, was appointed. The adjoining school was also built and supported by the late Mr. Stansfield. Old Thomas Harper, whose family lived for a long period at the Old Hall, provided the first school for Esholt village in a chamber attached to his farmhouse, and which was known as the Bethel. His nephew, Matthew Mitchell, continued it, and afterwards gave the land and stone to build the present Wesleyan chapel and school. Mr. Mitchell also officiated as superintendent, class leader, and minister. His cheerful, honest face is still remembered by some. The Reading-room and Recreation Society, an institution which is greatly appreciated by the villagers, owes its origin to the late Mayor of Bradford, Mr. H. Mitchell, who, with other gentlemen, still takes a generous interest in its success. In 1821 the population of Esholt was 355 ; in 1871 the number had only increased to 398.

Leaving Esholt, we ascend Hollins Hill, not by the new Shipley and Otley highway, but by a steep and rugged road from Esholt—a good sample of such roads as our forefathers used to travel. A little patient plodding, however, brings us to Parkgate, the residence of M. W. Thompson, Esq. The Parkgate property was purchased in 1815 by Benjamin Thompson, Esq., uncle of the present owner, from the assignees of Francis Ridsdale, who bought it of the Marshall family. William Marshall, a former owner, was a woolstapler, and a friend of the Rev. John Wesley, who frequently when in this neighbourhood made Parkgate his home. The above Benjamin Thompson, and his elder brother Matthew, were so intimately associated with the Bradford of former days that we append a few particulars regarding them.

Matthew and Benjamin Thompson were the sons of the Rev. John Thompson, incumbent of Castleford, whose father was Matthew Thompson, a “statesman” (equivalent to our yeoman), of Bampton, in Westmoreland. One of the earliest entries in the register of Bampton Church, which begins about 1690, is a record of the marriage of Matthew Thompson, of Walmgate-foot, to Dorothy Noble, school-dame. From that time until recently there has been a succession of Matthew Thompsons holding the Bampton property, when about two years ago the last Matthew died, having sold the Bampton homestead—a very “modest mansion”—and farm lands to Matthew William Thompson, of Bradford. At about the ages of fourteen and twelve respectively, the brothers Matthew and Benjamin were sent to Bradford, there to take part in the active business of life, being entrusted to the care of their uncle, Mr. Benjamin Peile, who was a dyer. To this

business Matthew Thompson was brought up, while his brother Benjamin was apprenticed with Mr. Richard Fawcett to the worsted trade. That business, which has since so conduced to Bradford's greatness, was, however, then in the "day of small things." The work, such as it was, was done by hand, and there was not a single factory in the town! In 1798 Messrs. Ramsbotham & Co. erected one in Thornton Road of fifteen-horse power, and three years after one was erected in the Holme for Mr. Richard Fawcett. In 1803 the brothers Thompson, having acquired a knowledge sufficient to justify them in "setting up" business, commenced worsted spinning in partnership with their uncle in a mill built for them by Mr. Peile, who, being a bachelor, had in a measure adopted them, and chose this mode of furthering the interests of his charge. The mill was of twenty-horse power, and was situate in the fields on the high side of the Goit. These premises, still called Thompson's Mill, have been greatly extended by the present owner, Mr. M. W. Thompson.

The part taken by the brothers—and especially by Matthew—in public affairs we must be content with thus simply referring to. By that plodding industry which distinguished the earlier manufacturers both brothers made ample fortunes. Matthew Thompson married a daughter of the Rev. William Atkinson, who was formerly afternoon lecturer at the Bradford Parish Church, and their eldest son is the present owner of Parkgate, Mr. M. W. Thompson. Benjamin Thompson married Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. William Whitaker, one of the partners in the Bradford Old Brewery, established in 1757. Their only surviving daughter was married to her cousin, Mr. M. W. Thompson. Matthew Thompson died at Hastings in 1847, and was buried at Bromley, in Kent. His brother Benjamin survived him about ten years, and is buried at Guiseley. During the earlier years of his residence at Parkgate (until the opening of the Shipley and Otley turnpike), Benjamin Thompson made the journey daily from Bradford by way of Frizinghall, Shipley, Baildon Green, and Esholt, reaching home by the old road previously described. As this toilsome journey was often made in the dark both ways he carried a loaded pistol, and not without reason, as the wood at Baildon bottom was a noted harbour for footpads. On one occasion one of these gentry seized his horse's bridle in the wood below where Mr. Edward Salt's residence now is, but on seeing Mr. Thompson's bosom friend he took to his heels, "more sharper," as Bradford lads say.

Of Mr. M. W. Thompson, by birth and marriage the present representative of the brothers Thompson, we may say that he is more deserving of honours than studious to acquire them. He was born at

Manningham Lodge (where his father long resided) in 1820. Having been educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, he graduated B.A. in 1843 and M.A. in 1846, and was called to the bar of the Inner Temple during the latter year. In 1862-3 he was Mayor of Bradford, and was elected M.P. for Bradford in 1867. He has since served for two years the office of Mayor. Mr. Thompson is deputy-chairman of the Midland Railway Company, and is a director of the Glasgow and South Western Railway Company. He was the first chairman of the Bradford School Board, and fills, and has filled, the office of chairman to numerous local bodies and institutions. Since acquiring the Parkgate property Mr. Thompson has much enlarged the residence and otherwise improved the estate.

A short detour from Parkgate brings us to the top of Hollins Hill, and to Hawkstone Wood. Overtopping this wood there is a famous landmark called the Hawkstone, composed of huge blocks of sandstone which by some upheaval have been thrown together in a singular manner, affording beneath the hugest of the blocks shelter from the heat or rain for many visitors. Like many similar crags, they have gathered around them strange "old-wife tales" which we shall certainly not attempt to discredit. From the top of the Hawkstone a beautiful panorama is opened out to the visitor. Another short stroll along a country lane brings us to Hawksworth, of all places the most primitive "round about Bradford." From its altitude it commands a wide prospect, taking in a portion of smoky Bradford to the left, while opposite and winding to the right are the everlasting hills,

"Brown here with heath, and there with brackens green."

The only object of interest—and in this respect it is not surpassed by any other in the neighbourhood—is Hawksworth Hall, for nearly half-a-century the residence of Timothy Horsfall, Esq., whom we may venture to speak of as a true type of a Yorkshire country gentleman. Thoresby says that Hawksworth gave the name and residence to a family of the highest dignity to which authentic records usually ascend. In 1086 Hawksworth appears in the Archbishop of York's lordship as belonging to a Walter Hawksworth, the probability being that he lived there at that time. The family documents relating to the property, however, do not extend beyond the reign of Henry III. The family of Hawksworth, represented by many subsequent Walters, remained at their ancient seat at Hawksworth, attracted probably more by its associations and the admirable position it occupies than by the accommodation it afforded, and intermarried with families in

the neighbourhood. The name, however, became merged in that of Fawkes in 1786, when Walter Ramsden Beaumont Hawksworth (great-grandfather of the present owner) assumed the surname and arms of Fawkes pursuant to the will of Francis Fawkes, Esq., of Farnley Hall, and removed there the same year. Francis Fawkes, the last of his family, left the property to his relative of Hawksworth, through his mother, Miss Ayscough, instead of to his heir-at-law, the son of his father's sister, Vavasour of Weston, because of a supposed insult that his aunt, Mrs. Vavasour, had paid him when quite a youth. The following story we have been careful to have verified, and it will be found interesting as showing how the above supposed slight was the means of bringing the old family property belonging to the Fawkeses to their relatives of Hawksworth :—

A select party, the *élite* of the valley, was invited to dine at Weston Hall. The butler was in the pantry arranging his sack glasses, and putting the last polish on the “loving cup,” when Frank Fawkes, the young squire of Farnley, in hunting costume and all splashed with mud, was seen making for the house. “Show Mr. Frank into the servants’ hall,” called out Mrs. Vavasour, “and I’ll be with him in a minute.” Notwithstanding his aunt’s blandishments, and her pressing entreaties to “partake of a tankard of Starkie’s best ale, and taste Mary Crook’s cream cheese,” the young squire saw through this artifice to keep him from mixing with the select dinner party; so, declining all refreshments, he trotted off across the “forty-shilling pasture,” and made straight for Hawksworth Hall. Here his reception was very different. The best room in the house was not too good for him, and Mr. Hawksworth was lavish in his entreaties that the young squire would stay to dine. “We have some grouse, and a few trout out of the Aire, and if you will only stay, there is a fawn just put down, and with a glass of Malmsey, perhaps you can make a dinner.” “Hold, my dear sir, I am in no spirits for feasting to-day. The fact is, I am come to borrow money. Can you lend me three hundred guineas?” Mr. and Mrs. Hawksworth presently emptied all their loose cash—guineas, nobles, and crowns—into a bag, and handed them to the squire, refusing to take even his note-of-hand for the amount. “My business is too urgent to stay to-day,” said Frank Fawkes, “but I’ll come again shortly.” Although several visits were subsequently exchanged, not a word was said about the loan until three months had elapsed, when the bag was returned untied—the borrower, after expressing his acknowledgments, explaining that it was a mere *ruse* to try their friendship! As previously stated, the fine estate of Farnley was, at Frank’s death in 1786, made over to Walter

Beaumont Hawksworth; and to make it quite certain that the Vavasours should not succeed to it, he left twenty-five different wills, made in as many years, and all in the same terms!

The two ancient families of Hawksworth and Fawkes being now united by marriage and residence, their history may be related in connection. From the family documents at Farnley it appears that the Fawkeses formerly came from Avignon, in France. In 1225 one of them was a knight under Falk de Brant, who held the castle of Bedford against King Henry III. The king, after a long resistance, having at last taken it, laid it prostrate, and caused all the knights to be hanged except Fawkes, whom he banished to Avignon. William Fawkes was lord of Farnley in 1290. One Nicholas Fawkes, in the 12th of Henry VIII., married Anne Hawksworth, of Hawksworth. From this marriage there was a regular succession down to the Francis Fawkes mentioned above, who died in 1786 without issue. At Farnley Hall, much enlarged and enriched by recent owners, is preserved a number of valuable relics of the Civil Wars, including the swords of Cromwell, Lambert, and Fairfax; Cromwell's hat and watch; the seal of the Commonwealth; the Fairfax boot-cup, formed partly of the boot worn by that general at Marston Moor, and other *bonâ fide* memorials of those troublous times. Farnley Hall is also noted for its magnificent collection of paintings, which has on many occasions been thrown open for inspection through the well-known generosity of the late owner, Francis Hawksworth Fawkes, Esq., who died in March, 1871, aged 74, and his nephew, the present owner, Ayscough Fawkes, Esq.

Hawksworth Hall is of irregular form, having apparently been built at various periods. The late Mr. F. H. Fawkes lived at it when first he married, until he succeeded his father, Walter Ramsden Fawkes, Esq., M.P., at Farnley, in 1825. Since then the hall has been leased to others. Mr. Timothy Horsfall, however, has resided there continuously since 1830. Mr. Horsfall is, we believe, the last surviving member of the firm of Horsfall Bros., of Bradford, to whose commercial enterprise the worsted trade of this district owes no little of its development. He is now over eighty years of age, and was born at Goitstock, near Harden, where his father, Mr. Timothy Horsfall, carried on the cotton trade. He has for many years been a justice of the peace, and is the senior magistrate on the Otley bench, and excepting his respected colleague Mr. Joshua Pollard, of Scarr Hill, the oldest justice in the Bradford division. The quaint old rooms of the hall abound in oak wainscoting, which is preserved with scrupulous care, and Mr. Horsfall has enriched the hall with many valuable suites

of genuine antique furniture and pictures collected from a wide area. In the dining-room are massive cabinets of rare workmanship and antique design, while in the entrance hall other specimens of equal value may be seen, besides a perfect stud of riding whips, "brushes," and other trophies of sport. Ascending the curious old staircase, we enter a bedroom abounding with antique specimens of furniture, representing different periods. The *piece de resistance*, however, is a fine old oak bedstead, which once had a lodgment in Skipton Castle. Several other antique specimens of furniture in oak—cabinets, chests, &c,—adorn this room, all of them being in beautiful preservation. The principal show-place is the Oak Room, which is curiously ornamented in stucco, and at each end bears the Royal arms, with the date 1611. King James the First is reputed to have been entertained at Hawksworth while upon a "knighting" expedition, and in this room he slept. The rich oak floors and wainscoting, and deeply-recessed bays, mark this apartment as of especial note. To the undoubted historical interest attaching to Hawksworth Hall, we must also add the evident pride with which Mr. Horsfall regards the home of his adoption. Although not his own property, no descendant of a long line of ancestry could point out its chief attractions with greater zest.

Hawksworth, like Esholt, is a township in the parish of Otley. The Wesleyan chapel was built in 1832, and in the graveyard is a fine tombstone erected in memory of Marmaduke Rennard, master at the old school for over fifty years. Rennard was a man well known and highly respected for miles around. He was, in fact, the legal adviser of the district, having during his lifetime made about 200 wills for persons in all positions of society. He was also a popular and able local preacher among the Wesleyans, having preached the anniversary sermons at some places every year without intermission for over twenty-seven years, and at others over twenty years. Mr. Rennard died on June 22, 1869, aged 79 years. The village also possesses a Church school, the foundation-stone of which was laid on the 12th of August, 1875, by Mr. Horsfall.

Singularly "beautiful for situation" is Rawdon, which, with its surroundings, next claims our attention. Backed by the wooded heights of the Billing, and commanding a great stretch of country—eastwards in the direction of Leeds, and westwards over the purple moorlands of Rombalds Moor (with the ever-present shooting-house crowning the ridge); Rawdon is seen to most advantage from the opposite side of the valley. In the "Romance of the Red Rose"—an

anonymous poem by a native writer whose name we would fain record—we have a stirring picture of these pleasant uplands in “ye olden times” :—

“ Bright is the sun, and green is every bough,
 And eager is the crew, whose noisy mirth
 Rings throughout Rawdon's woods at St. John's call.
 A hunting feast is marshalled for the day :
 Fairfax is there, gay Savile, Vavasour,
 Old Fawkes, descended of a generous race,
 And doomed his name to leave for generous sons ;
 High Belassis, of whom the peasants say
 His fathers changed their lands, a witless deed
 In the old time ; the Knight of Rawdon Hall,
 Rawdon de Rawdon, whose still greater son,
 A prince 'mid princes, and a knight 'mid knights,
 Shall show such heart to shame an iron age
 As chivalry in her best day had called her own,”

At the period to which this would doubtless refer, the “merry green-woods” were more extensive than now ; the “Buckstone,” a shelving rock around which in later times the early Puritans met for secret worship, might then really be the look-out post from whence the leader of the antlered herd could scent the enemy from afar ; or the rendezvous from whence his stately lordship might hear the “hartes bel.” Could the old knights above-mentioned once more revisit their former hunting-grounds, they would find far less to shock their high-born sensibilities than in many surrounding places which might be named. The “old nobility” may have gone, perhaps for ever, but in their stead has arisen a race of self-made nobles, born of trade and commerce, whose pretty villas or castellated towers stud the hillside or nestle in the wood, to the undoubted advantage of the landscape. The fortunate possessors of these abodes being almost exclusively Bradford traders, Rawdon is but an aristocratic suburb of the “metropolis of the worsted trade.”

Rawdon, as part of the ancient parish of Guiseley, has a history going back to very remote times, although in some important particulars it is somewhat obscure. The name has been severally spelt *dun*, *den*, and *don*, but the latter, signifying the hill of the roe, would seem to be the most correct, as it is also the most recent mode of spelling. In Domesday Book we find Rawdon thus alluded to among the King's lands :—“ In Roudun, Glunier, Gamel, and Sandi had three carucates to be taxed. Land to two ploughs, ten shillings.” Again, it is stated that “Robert de Bruis held here six oxgangs ;” also, “In Rodun, Gamelbar had two carucates to be taxed. Land to one

plough, eight shillings." It would thus appear that the land was in the possession of several Saxon thanes previous to the Conquest; after which, according to tradition, it was handed over, along with other possessions, to

" Paul de Rawdon, of immortal name,
Renowned in war, who with the Conqueror came,"

as a reward for the services rendered by a body of archers which he commanded. Here the family of Rawdon were located for full 600 years, and here the family, which has latterly added the title of Hastings, have still a "local habitation and a name." Early in the seventeenth century a branch of the Layton family, of West Layton, in the North Riding, acquired considerable land by purchase of the Oglethorpes, and with it also the manorial rights, which had some time before passed away from the Rawdon family. Sir Walter Calverley, in 1728, purchased part of the Layton estate of one of the co-heiresses of Thomas Layton. The other three sold their portions to Christopher Emmott about 1738, and in 1743 the Emmotts acquired all the estate, and also the right of presentation to the church. The present lord of the manor is General Green-Emmott-Rawdon. As to the residue of the property of the redoubtable Paul de Rawdon, who, in reward for his skill,

" Received this manor upon Rawdon hill,"

only about forty acres remain, adjoining an old mansion supposed to have been built when the original Rawdon Hall was vacated. The principal portion was purchased some years ago by Nathaniel Briggs, Esq., of Rawdon, who has on lease the above forty acres and the old mansion, which the Hastings family do not wish to dispose of. Mr. Briggs having purchased some of the Wickham property adjoining, has acquired a large and compact estate, which he has judiciously roaded and laid out, and in part disposed of. The other principal landed proprietors of Rawdon are L. W. Wickham, Esq., who has, however, disposed of much of the Hird property, to which he succeeded; H. W. Ripley, Esq., M.P., of Acacia, which was formerly owned by Robert Milligan, Esq., the late representative for Bradford; and Harrison Milligan, Esq., of Benton Park.

The village of Rawdon lies high upon the skirts of the Billing, and accordingly commands extensive and striking prospects. On this lofty ridge, which yet retains its British name, was found about the year 1780 a valuable relic of British antiquity. This was a torque or collar of pure gold, consisting of two rods twisted together. Its intrinsic value was some £18, but to the lord of the manor, who claimed the treasure-trove, its value as a memorial of departed valour

was much greater, such ornaments only having been bestowed on those distinguished for some brave deed. A few years before a large and rude urn full of ashes was found at Yeadon, and in 1867 some bronze celts (axes) were found when the garden belonging to Arthur Briggs, Esq., at Crag Royd, was formed. Some of them are in the museum of the Bradford Philosophical Society. In the same grounds is the archway which formed the gateway to the old Unitarian Chapel, Chapel Lane, Bradford, and which originally came from Howley Hall.

Fifty years ago Rawdon was of more importance as a clothing village than it is at present, or is ever likely to be. There is abundant employment, however, for handicraftsmen of all kinds, owing to the increase of gentlemen's residences in the immediate locality. The community are well supplied with religious and scholastic appliances, the neighbourhood having long been in repute, probably from its undoubted healthiness, for what are known as "boarding schools." The convenience of the entire district, comprising Guiseley, Rawdon, Yeadon, Horsforth, &c., was most materially promoted by the new road from Guiseley to Kirkstall, which was constructed in the year 1826. It would be difficult to select in this district any road which for so long a distance commands a prospect so extensive and varied. The population of Rawdon in 1800 was 1115; in 1831 it was 2059. It is now estimated at about 3000.

After these general remarks we may deal more in detail with the special features of the district under notice. The Stansfield's Arms, near the river side, was originally the gate-house for Esholt Hall. The motto on the sign-board, "*Medio tutissimus ibis*," is a pun on the arms of the Stansfield family—three ibises or rather ibides, the "ibis" being a bird held sacred by the Egyptians: and the word "ibes" being also Latin for "thou shalt go." If freely translated into—"A medium course is the best," it may be intended as a bit of useful advice to habitual toppers, bent on thoroughly "moistening their clay." The house was long kept by the Exley family, afterwards by Mr. Beaumont, and at a more recent period by Mr. Thomas Harper. Like "Mrs. Hick's," on the opposite side of the river, it is a favourite resort with half-day tourists. Close by is a building, now used as a private dwelling, which was erected in 1837 as a branch of the Bradford Court of Requests. This institution is now obsolete, having been superseded by the County Courts, but it is of some antiquity, being, in fact, a relic of feudal times dating back to the Conquest. The Court of Requests was legalised by an Act passed in the 17th year of George III., "for the more easy and speedy recovery of small debts," and exercised jurisdiction over many places in the neighbourhood.

The court jail was formerly at Halifax, but it has been rendered useless by a recent Act abolishing imprisonment for debt altogether.

An institution of far different character from the one last-mentioned is Woodhouse Grove School, founded in 1812 for the education of seventy-two sons of Wesleyan ministers, and since then several times enlarged, so that it has now some hundred and twenty scholars. The mansion occupied as the school is one of the most stately buildings in Airedale, and has an extensive frontage, lawn, and pleasure grounds, sloping to the river. The school is founded upon the principle of that belonging to the Wesleyan denomination at Kingswood. The estate was purchased of the trustees of Thomas Clapham in 1811, Clapham having in 1804 bought it of Robert Elam, who in 1799 purchased it of Joseph Pratt. The deeds conveying the property to the present owners, however, show that so far back as 1594 the estate had been in the possession of the Hird family (variously spelt Herd, Hurd, and Hird), and remained with them up to the year 1788, when Mr. Pratt acquired it. The difficulty of converting the original premises into a building suited to the purposes of a public school was readily mastered by the ingenuity of the Wesleyan committee. The barn was fitted up for a school-room; a room adjoining, well known to most "Grove" boys as "the classical-room," was furnished for the benefit of the few who at that day were considered eligible for something beyond a mere English education; and the stable was turned into a chapel, the floor of which was arranged on the plan of an amphitheatre. The profanations of modern progress have converted this ancient sanctuary into a wash-house. The building was opened in January, 1812, Mr. Fennell being the first tutor, and the Rev. James Wood the first governor. Subsequent tutors have been the Revs. Thomas Stanley, Miles Martindale, John Stamp, George Morley, William Lord, and John Farrar. The institution is now presided over by the Rev. Henry H. Chettle. The first list of boys included the names of W. W. Stamp, Samuel Waddy, Francis West, Philip Hardcastle, R. M. Reece, Geo. Morley, and John Farrar. A little later we meet with the names of W. M. Bunting, John Leppington, George B. Macdonald, Jacob Stanley, and William Atherton. The stable-chapel in process of time was found unequal to the decencies and necessities of public worship, and in 1832, through the assiduous diligence of the Rev. George Morley, the chapel now used was erected at a cost of about £800, the whole of which sum was raised before the building was opened. In 1842 the present school premises were decided upon, and they were completed at a cost of £6000. About 1600 boys have received their education at Woodhouse Grove, many of whom have risen to

honourable positions in the Wesleyan Church and in the world. The Jubilee of the school was held in August, 1862, under the presidency of Sir William Atherton, then Attorney-General for England, himself an old "Grove" boy.

A curious history attaches to the round tower which stands upon a mound at some little distance from the school premises. By old residents in the neighbourhood it is called "Elam's Temple," and its erection is attributed to the above-named Robert Elam, who was a wealthy gentleman, and a member of the Society of Friends. This gentleman, about the close of last century, visited these parts, and was so struck with the beauty of the neighbourhood that he decided to erect at Lower Woodhouse, as the estate was then called, a memorial of his admiration. His mode of doing this was quite in keeping with the benevolent proclivities of his sect. At the above period, historical as a very "bad time," many people were "lacking for bread," and the erection of the "temple" furnished a good medium for distributing charity. Accordingly, Friend Elam (so runs the story) himself superintended the work, and, in order to absorb as much adult labour as possible, had all the stones conveyed to the place by hand! Some mysterious "dungeons" are supposed to exist near the school premises. We imagine, however, that this is but a "school tale," evolved long ago round the dining-hall fire, and ever after held *in terrorem* over the heads of school fledglings.

The Baptist interest of Rawdon is supposed to date its commencement from the itinerancy of William Mitchell and David Crossley, two natives of Heptonstall, who, about 1680, commenced a system of itinerant preaching, resulting in numerous congregations being formed. Mr. Mitchell frequently preached at Rawdon, and subsequently settled in the neighbourhood, where he continued until his death in 1705. Although a man rude of speech and of unpolished manners, he gathered large assemblies of hearers, who were not the fewer in consequence of the attempts to silence him by bringing the provisions of the Conventicle Act to bear upon him, and of his subsequent confinement in York Castle. The result of Mitchell's ministrations was doubtless the erection of the little chapel in Crag Wood, although it was not completed for some years after his death. It is believed, however, that the faithful, long before the erection of this chapel, met for worship under a rock, still standing, called the "Buckstone." The cavities in the rocks are still to be seen where posts and beams were inserted to allow of additional shelter being provided. The ground for the chapel was purchased in 1712 of John Gibson, yeoman, of Yeadon, and was conveyed to the following trustees, viz.:—John Mar-

shall, of Yeadon ; John Hird, of Yeadon ; Isaac Naylor, of Clayton, near Bradford ; William Rawson, of Heaton, physician ; and Major Theaker, of Rawdon, clothier. The " consideration " paid was only 10s. John Gibson, the vendor, lies buried within the ruined enclosure, and also his wife and son. In the year 1715 the church was formed, and for this purpose the members were dismissed from the parent community at Rossendale, near Bacup.

For several years before this, however, Mr. John Wilson, from Furness, in Lancashire, had laboured amongst the people, and on the 31st August, 1715, he was publicly ordained as the first pastor. From the church books we find the first members to have been as follow :— Isaac Naylor, Major Theaker, deacons ; John Sedgfield, Thomas Green, Nat. Booth, John Ramsbottom, William Mather, William Rawson, Hird Marshall, Samuel Swain, William Mann, Joseph Myers, Benjamin Moon, Paul Greenwood, Joseph Stead, Thomas Hardcastle, Sarah Smithies, Mary White, Sarah Jennings, and two others. Mr. Wilson, the minister, died in 1746, and was succeeded in 1747 by Mr. Jonathan Brown. Mr. Brown left the church in 1752, after which Mr. Thomas Wilbraham, a blind man, officiated for a short time. Mr. John Oulton was the next minister, and held that office for fifty years.

" Simple, grave, sincere,
In doctrine uncorrupt, in language plain,
And plain in manner,"

Mr. Oulton's private life corresponded with his public profession. He died in 1804 at the advanced age of 85 years. The Rev. Peter M'Farlane held the pastoral office from 1807 to 1814, Samuel Hughes from that year to 1841, William Liddell up to 1846, Robert Holmes from 1847. The Rev. Thomas Burdett, from Tenby, South Wales, is now the pastor. The present Buckstone Chapel was originally built in 1765, the ground having been purchased of Mr. Josiah Marshall. Formerly baptisms took place in the river Aire, and afterwards in a field where there was a beautiful pool called the Bobbling Well.

The site of the old chapel in the wood, called from its position the "Craig," or "Cliffe Chapel," was probably chosen for its secluded position. It was then at some distance from a public road, and was entirely surrounded by trees. Tradition records that at its opening the appropriate text was selected by the preacher, "We have found it in the fields of the wood." The building has long been in ruins, this process having been accelerated by the promoters of the present chapel taking away many of the stones to form part of the new edifice. The remaining portion, with the tombstones adjoining, is now sacredly

preserved within his grounds by Mr. Nathaniel Briggs. It is one of the most interesting relics the Baptist denomination possesses.

There are few more charming walks than the route through Crag Wood up to the higher part of the district, and as it conducts us to several notable landmarks of Rawdon, we are all the more inclined to take it. By the judicious planting of choice forest trees, evergreens, and shrubs, the beauty of Crag Wood has been rather increased than otherwise. The imposing structure at the top of the wood is Rawdon Baptist College, the foundation stone of which was laid on August 4, 1858, by Thomas Aked, Esq., of Shipley Grange. The site contains about seven acres, and one more desirable could scarcely be found. The freehold was purchased from the late Robert Milligan, Esq., who generously gave back half of the purchase-money. The style of the edifice is Tudor, and it presents a frontage to the south-west of 280 feet. The architect was Mr. J. H. Paull, of Cardiff. The cost was about £10,000, and accommodation is provided for about forty students.

As early as 1773 efforts were made to establish a collegiate institution in the North for the training of ministers of the Baptist denomination, Bristol College being then the only one existing, but they failed, and it was not until the year 1804 that a determined and successful effort was made. Mr. (afterwards Dr.) Fawcett, of Halifax, is credited with being one of the principal promoters, and he was ably supported by such devoted men as Sutcliff, Langdon, and Littlewood. James Bury, Esq., of Pendle, gave a practical stimulus to the movement by his generous contribution of £500, and after some rivalry between Yorkshire and Lancashire for the honour of location, Little Horton was chosen as the site of the future college, and in a house formerly used for stuff-making by Mr. Balme, the new tutor, the Rev. William Steadman, commenced in 1806 with *one* pupil. Up to 1817 the business of the college was carried on in hired premises, but in that year they were purchased for the society, by Thomas Key, Esq., of York, the cost being £1271. Never really adapted for the purposes of a college, it was found necessary in 1824 to rebuild the president's house, at a cost of £1400, and two years later a further sum of £1100 was expended in rebuilding the studies. In these premises the work of the college was conducted until a movement was commenced to remove the institution away from a building which had become altogether unfit for the purposes of tuition. The key-note of this movement was struck in August, 1854, at the Jubilee services then held, and the new college above-mentioned was opened in September, 1859.

Several honoured names are associated with this institution, in the foremost rank of which may doubtless be placed that of Dr. Steadman, who for thirty years held the position of president and theological tutor. Dr. Steadman died April 12, 1837, full of years and honour, and was succeeded by the Rev. James (now Dr.) Acworth. Mr. Acworth continued to discharge the duties until after the removal of the institution to Rawdon, being assisted by the Rev. C. Daniell. He was succeeded by the Rev. S. G. Green, D.D., who still holds the presidency. The post of classical tutor was held by the late Rev. Dr. Godwin for many years until, and after, the erection of Sion Chapel, Bradford, of which church he took the pastorate. The Rev. Francis Clowes and the Rev. S. G. Green afterwards held the position of second tutor. Among others who for many years took an active part in promoting the interests of the institution were Samuel Broadley, Esq., who left large legacies to the society and to aged Baptist ministers; the Rev. Isaac Mann, William Tetley, Esq., J. Fawcett, Esq., the Rev. M. Saunders, the Rev. H. Dowson, Thos. Aked, Esq., and latterly the Rev. J. P. Chown.

The adjoining edifice, the Convalescent Home, has been built at the exclusive cost of H. W. Ripley, Esq., M.P. Externally, the Home presents a somewhat picturesque appearance, being built of red pressed bricks, relieved by stone dressings. The style adopted is modern Gothic. There are two frontages—one towards the valley, and another looking to the village of Rawdon. Running the whole length of the south front, to the extent of 210ft., is a broad terrace, the gardens and recreation grounds being provided on the north side. The building was designed by Messrs. Andrews & Pepper, of Bradford.

Rawdon, as previously stated, was once the seat of an ancient family of that name. There is mention made of a Thorold de Rawdon in an old deed, without date, amongst the writings belonging to Kirkstall Abbey; and other records bring down the pedigree of the family to modern times. The most noted member, however, was Sir George Rawdon, who in 1641, with less than 200 followers, repulsed Sir Phelim O'Neill at the head of about 7000 Irish rebels, whose intent was to burn the town and massacre the inhabitants of Lisburn. Sir George was born at Rawdon, and died in 1684, aged eighty years. His sister Priscilla was the last of the family resident in these parts. His grandson, Sir John, created Baron Rawdon of Moira in 1750, was married three times, his third wife being Lady Elizabeth Hastings, eldest daughter of the Earl of Huntingdon. Thus the family name became merged into that of Hastings. Their son, Francis, Lord

Rawdon and Marquis of Hastings, an intimate friend of George IV. when Prince of Wales, was for a long time one of the most prominent characters in the empire. He became a K.G. and Governor-General of British India, and was afterwards Governor of Malta. He died in 1826, and was succeeded in his title and estates by George Augustus Francis. The short, ill-fated career of his descendant, the last Marquis of Hastings, who, at the age of twenty-five, died a wreck in body and estate, will be too well remembered. The *Terror*, one of the ships lost in the ill-fated Arctic expedition led by Sir John Franklin, which left England in May, 1845, was commanded by Captain Francis Rawdon Moira Crozier, who, although not a native of Rawdon, was undoubtedly related to the Rawdon family.

The ancient residence of this distinguished family at Rawdon is situated a little to the east of the church, and with its extensive front and projecting gables standing in a most commanding position, still exhibits some indications of the importance of its early possessors. Michael Rawdon, whose father died in 1524, had a daughter Anne, who married Stephen Paslewe, of Riddlesden, and the supposition is that the old hall was their residence after marriage, and that Stephen committed suicide there. There is a room still called "Paslewe parlour." The hall seems afterwards to have passed to the Oglethorpes, who sold it in 1630 to the Laytons—of whom more anon. The above Michael Rawdon had also a son named George, the senior of his sister Anne, and he it was who built Rawdon Low Hall, which still belongs to the Hastings family. George married Ann, the daughter and co-heiress of John Beckwith; hence the initials over the fine old porch:

G. R.
A.

 George Rawdon's eldest son was named Francis, and married Dorothy, the daughter of William Aldborough, Esq., of Aldborough, and the initials:

F. R.
D.

 over a curious narrow doorway on the south front, stand for their name. They were the parents of the celebrated Sir George Rawdon and his sister Priscilla.

Francis Rawdon (father of Sir George) was a friend and protector of the early Nonconformists, as we find from repeated mention of his name in that connection. In April, 1667, the Rev. Oliver Heywood visited Rawdon Hall, where he spent Sunday and conducted a service, and again next year, when he preached to a considerable number. He recorded his latter visit thus—"Though the old gentleman be dead, yet we are sweetly entertained. He was near eighty-six years of age." Old Francis died on April 25 in that year, and was buried in Guiseley Church. His wife Dorothy had died eight years before, after they had been married fifty-seven years. Rawdon Low Hall contains

several fine, lofty rooms, and much oak wainscoting. The dining-room, especially, is of large dimensions, and is kept in good preservation. There is a motto in capital letters on an ancient piece of furniture, as follows :—"Give God al praise for to Him it is dewe. Love God above all thing and thi night bour as thiself." This is attributed to old Francis. Samuel Bingley occupied the hall and farmed the land for about fifty years.

The Layton family, although of more recent date at Rawdon than the above, were resident there for some time, and were, even more than the leading family, benefactors of the place. What is termed Old Rawdon, lying near the church, mostly belonged to them, and now belongs to General Green-Emmot-Rawdon. The property, however, is old, and much of it dilapidated. Francis Layton, who was born in 1577 and died August 23, 1661, was lord of the manor of Rawdon, having in 1630 purchased much of the Rawdon estate, and he is described as one of the masters of the Jewel House to Charles I. and Charles II. In 1645, when the tide of prosperity turned in favour of the Parliamentarians, they were not slow to sequestrate the estates of their opponents. Francis Layton, being a Royalist, compounded for his estate for the sum of £3670, which it is noticeable was the largest sum paid in this neighbourhood. The erection of the church was commenced by Francis Layton about the year 1647, but for some cause the building was long delayed, and in his will, dated 1653, he ordered that his son Henry should complete it. This behest was carried out after the lapse of many years, and the church was consecrated by the Archbishop of York on May 4, 1684. It is dedicated to St. Peter. The old portion of the churchyard was consecrated on the same day. In May, 1820, Mary, widow of John Lane, of Rawdon, died in her 106th year, and was buried in this churchyard.

In his will, Francis Layton settled a rent-charge of £40 a-year on his lands in Horsforth, in trust, £20 for the minister of Rawdon Church ; £2 to the clerk ; £5 4s. to two poor men of Rawdon, £1 for trustees' dinner ; and the residue, £11 16s. to be employed in putting out apprentices. His son, Henry, died in 1705, and was buried beside the altar of the church, having reached the advanced age of eighty-two years. Henry Layton was accounted a good historian and an accomplished gentleman, and published about 1697 many tracts against pluralities and on British coins. His notions as to the soul sleeping with the body until the resurrection called forth much dissent, but nevertheless he is spoken of as very religiously disposed. The old gentleman was in his latter years quite blind, and Mr. Timothy Jackson acted as his amanuensis.

After the death of Henry, his brother Thomas "beautified" the church, erected the tower, yard wall, and entrance gates. The tower bears the date 1706, and the initials T. L. The bell seems to have been cast as a memorial of Francis Layton, and upon it there is the date 1661. Thomas also erected at his own cost, about the year 1710, the Old School, and likewise built some almshouses. The school receives an endowment of £10 per annum out of Thomas Layton's trust from the New Imn property at Idle; the remaining income, amounting to about £80, going to a school at Lanshaw Bridge, Colne.

The venerable Wesley preached in Rawdon Church when he was above eighty years of age. In his journal he says—"On Tuesday, May 6, 1788, I accepted the invitation of Mr. Stones, a truly pious and active man, and preached in his church at Rawdon to a very serious congregation on 'Repent ye and believe the Gospel.'" The Rev. Samuel Marsden, a native of Farsley, was educated by Mr. Stones, and when a young man preached in Rawdon Church. In the adjoining school-room he lectured and held meetings which were called "Young Marsden Class Meetings." Soon after the establishment of the first English settlement in New South Wales, in 1788, Samuel Marsden went out as senior chaplain to Sydney. He was the first missionary sent to New Zealand in 1814, under the auspices of the London Missionary Society.

Rawdon Church, originally a mean building consisting of nave, chancel, and tower, was rebuilt in 1864 (excepting the tower), and a south aisle added. A piece of ground containing 1A. 2R. 21P., the gift of the late lord of the manor, was added to the burial-ground in 1870. The tower contains a clock, which was formerly in the Parish Church, Leeds. Like Cap'n Cuttle's watch, however, it requires putting back "half-an-hour every morning, and another quarter towards the afternoon," and then it may be of some service to the neighbourhood. The benefice, which is in the gift of General Rawdon, is valued at £120. There is also a parsonage house attached, built by Thomas Layton. The following are the names of the incumbents of Rawdon, with the dates of their initiation:—1704, Charles Booth, B.A., received his licence in 1728; in 1745, John Deason; in 1780, Samuel Stones; in 1823, Anthony Ibbotson; in 1858, John Dickenson Knowles; and in 1865, the present incumbent, Robert Howard, M.A. The National Schools, built by subscription in 1861, at a cost of £539, were enlarged during the present year, at an expenditure of about £700.

Although the very antipodes of the "monks of old," the Society of Friends as a rule are none the less mindful in selecting fine situations for their scholastic establishments, and the one at Low Green, Raw-

don, may be taken as an illustration. The school was established in 1832 for the children of those who are connected with the society, but are not in membership. It has recently been opened to such as have no connection with the Friends. There are forty boys and thirty girls in the school, and the institution is under a committee of management, consisting of twenty gentlemen. Mr. Charles Barnard is the resident superintendent. So far back as 1697 the Friends had a meeting-house at Little Moor, at the western end of the township. The land originally belonged to Francis Rawdon, and it was conveyed by one of that family to Jeremiah Marshall, of Burley Wood-head, fellmonger; Abraham Marshall, of the same place, yeoman; and Stephen Marshall, of Yeadon, husbandman. On the 15th of February, 1697, the above persons conveyed it to Josiah Grimshaw, of Rawdon, clothier; Richard Hardaker, of Rawdon, clothier; William Hollings, of Yeadon, clothier; William Butterfield, of Rawdon, weaver; Timothy Cooper and Caleb Verity, of Rawdon, clothiers.

The earlier members of the society seem to have chosen a sequestered spot near the brook above Esholt Springs as a burial-place, before the erection of the meeting-house. It has little appearance now of the sacred purpose to which it was devoted, but two grave-stones are visible. On one of them is the inscription—"Here lyeth the body of Joshua, son of William Overend, who departed this life the 1st day of the 6th month, called August—(old style)—in the 36 year of his age. A.D. 1696." On the other is—"Here lieth the body of Nathan Overend, of Guiseley, who died the 11th day of the 5th month, called July, in the 39th year of his age. A.D. 1696."

The Wesleyan Methodists have had a chapel in Upper Rawdon since 1823, and the Primitive Methodist Chapel at Little Moor dates from the same period. Benton Park Chapel (Congregational) owed its erection chiefly to the late Henry Forbes, Esq., of Summer Hill, who laid the foundation-stone in March, 1846. The cost of the chapel and parsonage was about £4000, exclusive of the site, which was given by Robert Milligan, Esq., of Acacia. The chapel was enlarged, and a new school built in 1868, at a cost of £1380. The Rev. T. Hatton is the pastor.

Mr. Milligan, at his own cost, erected a building for a British Training School near Little London (a curious designation, but one frequently to be found in the neighbourhood of Bradford). The Baptists were to have the use of the building for Sunday school purposes. Until recently the premises were the habitat of the Mechanics' Institute for Rawdon; but, the School Board requiring the school, it is now leased to them, and the former tenants have had to

seek fresh quarters at New Road Side. The Institute has been in existence for about a quarter of a century. It possesses a good library, containing about 1000 volumes.

As briefly as possible we must now refer to a few old localities and families, merely premising that the neighbourhood is especially rich in material for a much longer paper than our space will permit.

The Hirds, a branch of whom, we have seen, had the Woodhouse Grove property from 1594, were numerous in the neighbourhood at one time, but, like the Rawdon and Layton families, their names are not now found. John Hird, of Buckstone, who died about 1750, and is buried at Rawdon Church, left the principal portion of his property to his nephew, Christopher Hird. Richard Hird, another member of this family, succeeded to the large property at Buckstone, lying around the historical rock bearing that name. He left two daughters, one of whom fell heiress to the Rawdon estate, and married in 1795 the Rev. Lamplugh Wickham, who on the day of his marriage, pursuant to the will of his father-in-law, took the name of Hird. This gentleman was the father of the late member for Bradford, H. W. Wickham, Esq., and of L. W. Wickham, Esq., the latter of whom has succeeded to the property. Richard Hird's second daughter was married to Sir Charles Des Vœux. Another Christopher Hird lived at Crow Trees, and his son built Lane Heads, afterwards the residence of Madame Hird and Mr. Forster, the present member for Bradford. He was one of the promoters of the second Baptist Chapel at Rawdon. Being infirm, his custom was to ride up the aisle to his pew door on a pony. At Upperwood another Hird formerly resided, who was a Quaker. Madame Hird, of Lane Heads, was left a widow, with seven daughters, the eldest of whom married Mr. Michael Humble, cotton broker, of Liverpool.

The Marshalls, of which family there were several branches, were influential in the neighbourhood long ago, and are still represented. An old house near Micklefield, bearing the date 1616, was one of their homesteads, and Micklefield House, the residence and property of Thomas Arton, Esq., was built upon the site of the residence of David Marshall, which was dated 1662. Yeadon Low Hall is, however, the only building associated with their name which is now in existence. Jeremiah Marshall purchased Low Hall in 1684. His great-grandson married Mary Cooper, of Crow Trees, and from them descended John Marshall, Esq., who was M.P. for Yorkshire in 1826, and the present Marshalls, of Leeds. The Barwicks, who intermarried with the Marshalls, were first represented at Low Hall by Richard Barwick, Esq., who married Julia Dinsdale, a Marshall by descent. His son, John

Marshall Barwick, married—first, Jane, daughter of George Smith, Esq., banker, of Leeds; and secondly, Martha, daughter of Wm. Murgatroyd, Esq., of Bankfield. The hall is now being restored by Mr. John Marshall Barwick, son of the above-named Mr. J. M. Barwick.

The commanding mansion called Crow Trees, rebuilt by Mr. J. V. Godwin, occupies almost the site of another homestead of some interest. In its re-construction, however, Mr. Godwin preserved the style and form of the older building. The house and land adjoining were purchased of Mr. L. W. Wickham. In the front of the old building was a stone bearing the initials C. C., and the date 1670; and in the rear another dated 1626. This house formerly belonged to a family named Cotes, a member whereof, named Samuel, was one of the ministers ejected in 1662. His living was at West Bridgford, in Nottinghamshire. After his ejection he became resident on his own lands at Rawdon, where he was born, and here he was visited by Oliver Heywood, who in 1684 preached his funeral sermon at Idle.

Close by the Crow Trees there stands a house so completely enveloped in ivy that it has latterly been known as Ivy House. The curious projecting chimney and other evidences bespeak its antiquity. This is also a portion of the Wickham property, but for fully two hundred years it has been tenanted by the Grimshaw family, of whom one member has been previously mentioned as a trustee of the Quaker Meeting-house. Sarah Grimshaw procured a licence for worship for this house about 1670. The family were formerly clothiers. The adjoining building was erected for a scribbling mill, and was worked by horse-power.

A gentleman named William Leavens was doubtless one of the most influential of the trading community of Rawdon in the early part of the century. He was a woolstapler at a period when that business had already arrived at some importance, and out of it he acquired much wealth. William Leavens lived at Micklefield, and afterwards at Upperwood House. He died in 1818, aged seventy-one years, and left his property to his nephews, John and William White, the former of whom succeeded him at Upperwood. The present representative of Mr. John White is Mr. Arthur Robson White, who married a daughter of Colonel Stott-Stanhope, of Eccleshill. A pleasant reminiscence in connection with Upperwood is that Charlotte Brontë lived with the White family as governess. Although her residence there was but of brief duration, the fact is treasured much in the neighbourhood. Who knows what inspiration the gifted authoress received during her residence here which was afterwards given to the world in the realistic story of "Jane Eyre?" Benjamin

Leavens, a brother of William Leavens, lived at Waterloo House, the ancestral home of the Leavens family, situated at Apperley. He died a bachelor, leaving a considerable amount of money to the younger branches of the White family. Thomas Leavens, another brother, dying without issue, left his property to the Fleshers. Mr. Robert Parkin, who married a Miss White, now owns and occupies the old house by the river side.

The Thompsons are another old Rawdon family, who sixty years ago were among the principal coloured cloth manufacturers of Yorkshire. Larkfield Mill, Park Mill, and Low Mill were all run by this family, who were largely engaged in the American trade. The first bag of Australian wool received in England was sent by the Rev. Samuel Marsden from New South Wales in 1808 to his nephew, John Marsden, a hosier then residing in Briggate, Leeds. It was shown to several Leeds woollen manufacturers, but from its very dirty state (being unscoured and unusually filled with animal fat), no one would either buy or try it. At last, as if useless, it was thrown on to the dunghill, whence it was taken by a rag gatherer, who sold it to Johnnywell Thompson (the name by which the firm of Thompson, of Rawdon, was known in early days). They were so well satisfied with it that they sought out where it came from, and for some years had transmitted to them all the wool that was grown in New South Wales. Doubtless this discovery was one of the principal means of their acquiring the large wealth they accumulated, although the firm afterwards sustained considerable losses by the collapse in the American trade during the war of 1812. Read in the light of present experience, the above fact is of great interest. The receipts into Great Britain last year of Australian wool amounted to 816,052 bales! On Mr. Marsden's visit to England he had a coat made from the Australian wool manufactured at Park Mill, in which he appeared before George III., in order to show him what could be produced in the then new colony of Australia. His Majesty was so pleased with the appearance of this garment that he wished to have one similar, and Mr. Thompson accordingly sent up a piece of cloth, from which the royal garment was cut. In March, 1812, the mill of Messrs. J. J. & R. Thompson was entered by the Luddites, and the "obnoxious" machinery completely wrecked—another incident of bygone times never, we trust, to be repeated.

John Womersley, of Lower Yeadon, may be noticed as representative of the early traders in wool in this neighbourhood, at a period when he, Richard Lupton, and John Chapman were the three principal woolstaplers in the Bradford trade. John Womersley, not less than

his two brother traders, had a reputation extending far beyond his native dale. His son William inherited his worldly gains, but did not continue the business. Mr. Nathaniel Briggs, of Rawdon, married a daughter of John Womersley, and Mr. T. S. Fison, who married another daughter, resided at Mawcroft House, the residence of the Womersleys, until his sudden death in December, 1875.

John Grimshaw also did a large business as a woolstapler, and was a well-known Rawdon man many years ago. He lived near to Buckstone Chapel.

The family of Exley were long resident at Rawdon. Old Joseph Exley, grandfather of Mr. Thomas Arton, lived at a homestead which has been superseded by the present Hamilton Cottage ; and William, his brother, farmed at Wood Top. The latter premises, with a large breadth of adjoining land, have recently been purchased by Mr. William Dewhirst, and in due course, doubtless, another old Rawdon homestead will give place to a modern villa residence.

Having thus referred to those families of Rawdon best known many years ago, we must conclude by a brief reference to Acacia, and to its former respected owner, Robert Milligan, Esq., to whose foresight the present development of Rawdon undoubtedly owes its existence. Born at Dunnance, in Scotland, in 1786, Mr. Milligan removed into this neighbourhood in his seventeenth year, and for some years followed the arduous but (in his case) profitable trade of "packman," finally settling down in Bradford in 1810. Here he established a successful wholesale and retail business, and from the first became noted for his integrity, industry, perseverance, and economy. Launching out into the enlarged stuff business, still carried on under the name of "Milligan, Forbes & Co.," he achieved such a success as, in hackneyed phrase, we are told is "ever the reward of industry," and became the architect of a fortune and a name which it is the lot of few self-made men to reach. Mr. Milligan was the first mayor of Bradford, after the incorporation of the borough in 1847, and was returned unopposed as member for the borough in 1851. He died at Acacia, after a residence there of thirty years, in July, 1862, aged 76. Acacia Cot, as it was formerly named, was built by Mr. Abraham Rhodes, who left Rawdon, his native village, as a poor lad, and became a London attorney. Mr. Richard Fawcett, of Bradford, afterwards purchased the property and some adjoining land, together about 120 acres, and resided at Acacia. From the trustees of Mr. Fawcett, Mr. Milligan bought the estate, and subsequently added 175 acres purchased from the Thornhills of Calverley. On Mr. Milligan's decease a portion of the estate, together with Acacia, was left to Mrs. H. W. Ripley.

SEVENTH DISTRICT.

CALVERLEY-WITH-FARSLEY—PUDSEY—TYERSAL—FULNECK.

THE ancient and picturesque village of Calverley is approached from Bradford by way of Fagley and Woodhall Hills through an avenue of beeches, elms, and sycamores, and other well-grown forest trees abound in and around the village, giving to it a very secluded and rural character. The more notable buildings are the Mechanics' Institute—an edifice that would be creditable to even a larger place than Calverley aspires to be—the Primitive Methodist Chapel, and the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. The attractions of the neighbourhood have led to the erection of several handsome mansions, conspicuous among these being The Grange, erected by the late Mr. David Yewdall; Elmwood, built by the late Mr. Samuel Gray; Ferncliffe, the residence of Mr. Briggs Priestley; Brookfield, the handsome villa recently erected by Mr. T. H. Gray; and others built by the late Mr. J. C. Yewdall, Mr. Z. Yewdall, Mr. John Pilley, Dr. Giddings, &c. Calverley House, the residence of Mr. S. M. Smith, occupies a commanding position overlooking the valley, and is approached by an avenue from the southern end of the village street. The old parish church of St. Wilfrid, with the "fat churchyard" adjoining, occupies a lovely situation. Built probably about the time of Kirkstall Abbey, the original walls of the church have stood for full seven hundred years. And what a tale they tell! On the old tower, with its time and storm-worn pinnacles, a number of hereditary daws have settled, and unconsciously contribute to the rural aspect of the scene. For four hundred years this old church was the only place of worship within the parish, and until a very recent period it was the principal if not the only place where marriages or funerals could take place. On the higher side of the street, commanding a rich prospect, stands the Vicarage. Calverley Hall, the residence for six centuries of the Calverley family, and the scene of the memorable tragedy, still occupies its old position in the centre of the village. At the junction of the thoroughfare to it from the main street stands a magnificent chestnut tree, the pride of the village, and a model of tree form. One of its companions lost an arm in a battle with the breeze some years ago—a loss which was keenly felt throughout the community. It is one of a number of chestnut trees which nearly encircled a small

field called Football Croft. On the opposite side of the road an open space is called Bullstoop Hill.

The parish of Calverley is of large extent, and includes Bolton, Idle, Windhill, Thornbury, Calverley, Farsley, part of Rodley, Pudsey, and the larger portion of Stanningley.

Like the great majority of the manors and townships in this district, Calverley-with-Farsley had been reduced soon after the Conquest to total depopulation and waste. Archil, the Saxon thane, who had three carucates of taxable land, was dispossessed, and the lucky Ilbert de Lacy, the Norman, henceforth reigned supreme. That some portions were under cultivation in very early times we have sufficient indication. The term "calf-herd," from which the name Calverley is supposed to be derived, would imply that the early residents were stock-keepers, and reared many young cattle. Notwithstanding the devastation brought about by the Conqueror, the rich fields or "leys" on the lower portions of the township still remained, ready to give forth "meat to the eater," and from the tenour of the document next quoted we infer that, after a period of dismay and depression, Calverley was reoccupied by a people who not only followed the plough and reaped the harvest from their own lowlands, but reared and herded stock sufficient to cause them to rent pasture lands outside their own borders. In a decree made in 1311 the Abbot of Kirkstall granted to John de Calverley and his tenants, and also to the Rector of Calverley, for the sum of 2s. annually, common of pasture for their cattle (goats only excepted, which seem to have been proscribed for their mischievous propensities in devouring young wood) in the common pasture lands of Bramley abutting upon the Bagley Beck, which is the boundary of Calverley and Bramley. In the same document wheat and arable lands are spoken of.

By a subsidy roll taken in 1524, the object being to assist Henry VIII. in his war with the French King, we are enabled to see who were the principal persons in the township at that period, and the relative value of the property held by them liable to assessment. Thus we have in Calverley :—"Walter Calverley, knight, assessed for £40 lands, 40s. ; Richard Calverley, for £10 guds, 5s. ; William Rawdon, for £3 guds, 18d. ; John Alanbryg, for 40s. guds, 12d. ; John Walker, for 40s. guds, 12d. ; Thos. Allanbryg, for 40s. guds, 12d. ; T. Byrkenshay, for 40s. guds, 12d. ; Gilbert Byrkenshay, for 40s. guds, 12d. ; William Calverley, for 20s. lands, 12d. ; Smyth wyff, for 40s. guds, 12d. ; Kytson wyff, for 40s. guds, 12d. Total. 54s. 6d." The record of the next three hundred years must be gathered from the fragmentary materials which follow. Culled from a much

larger mass the fragments, such as they are, are all that the space at command will permit us to give.

Undoubtedly the history of the Calverley family demands our first attention, and in order to trace their connection with the village we must go back some hundreds of years, to the time of the Lacies. It is believed that Alphonsus Gospatric received a grant from the Lacies of Calverley and Pudsey. One of the daughters of Gospatric married John Scotius, or the Scot, so called because he came from Scotland with the Empress Maud, mother of Henry II., in the capacity of steward. A branch of this family gave the name to Scot Hall, in the adjacent township of Potter Newton. John Scot, or Calverley, had a son who is believed to be the founder of the first Norman Church of Calverley, and in 1154 he endowed it. Several traces of this church have been discovered in the recent restoration. In 1217, William de Calverley gave the church of Calverley to St. Mary's Chapel, York.

The Calverleys were great friends and patrons of the nunnery of Esholt, and two daughters of the house attained to the rank of prioress. Sir Walter de Calverley also gave (through his chaplain of Esholt) a messuage and 33 acres of land for the endowment of Kirkstall Abbey, and again in 1324 John de Calverley gave the manor of Headingley to the same house. Though their condition could not have been much above that of a country squire, several of the family took a very active part in the proceedings of their time, and one of them rose by means of his wisdom and valour to be one of the personal friends and champions of the Black Prince. It is more than probable that men from Calverley would fight by his side in the famous and glorious battles of Cressy and Poitiers. Another Calverley died fighting for Prince Hal at Shrewsbury in 1403, against the valiant Hotspur and Glendower. The Calverleys, along with most of England's nobility, were well-nigh ruined by the Wars of the Roses, and being active on the Royalist side in the civil wars of Charles's time, had to dispose of considerable portions of their estates to raise the fines imposed upon them by the victorious Roundheads. At the Restoration, Sir Walter Calverley was created Knight of the Royal Oak for his loyal adherence and services to the house of Stuart.

The Calverley family were also distinguished otherwise than in war. The well-known country dance, Sir Roger de Coverley, is said to have been composed by one of the family, who was a great lover of music, and Addison, in the *Spectator*, is supposed to have drawn his sketch of Sir Roger from his friend Sir Walter Calverley, whose mural monument still remains in Calverley Church. There are many refer-

ences in the old town's books to this Sir Walter Calverley. In the church collections his stereotyped guinea generally swelled the sum realised for the "briefs," as they were called, or responses to begging petitions for objects of distress. Without it the "collections" were miserably small.

It was about 1661 that Calverley Manor Hall (the scene of the dreadful murder) was deserted by its former lords; Henry Calverley's son Sir Walter (the Knight of the Royal Oak) marrying a daughter of Henry Thompson, of Esholt, and becoming possessed of that beautiful estate, exchanged the home of his ancestors at Calverley for the more enchanting neighbourhood of Esholt. His son, of the same name, created a baronet in 1711, marrying Julia, the daughter of Sir William Blackett, of Wallington, Northumberland, rebuilt Esholt as it now appears, and planted the fine avenue of trees in front. He died at Esholt in 1749, aged eighty, and, along with his wife, was buried in Calverley Church. His monument, erected by his son, Sir Walter Blackett, originally in the chancel, but now placed in the base of the tower, relates, at great length and in flowing sentences, his virtues and his happiness. He is stated to have done much for the encouragement of trade in this neighbourhood, and it is somewhat confirmatory of this that all the water mills on the Aire (then the only mills) from Bingley to Kirkstall belong to the Thornhill or Stanhope estates, which were then held by him. He seems to have been a very active and influential justice of the peace, and a liberal and worthy gentleman of the olden time.

His son, the last Sir Walter Calverley, becoming possessed through his mother of the Blackett estates, took her name, he being the last of his own family in the direct male line. He sold the Calverley and Bramley estates in 1754 to the Thornhills, of Fixby, near Huddersfield, for £62,000; and the Esholt estate to Mr. Robert Stansfield, of Bradford, for £40,000, in the year after. He is said to have much regretted this step. After this he resided principally in the North, and was member for Newcastle in seven Parliaments. He died in 1777, and along with his daughter, who had been interred at Kensington for twenty years, was buried in Calverley Church. An old woman who died about twenty years ago distinctly remembered the funeral, which took place at midnight, and by the light of torches. Sir Walter's sister Julia married George, son of Sir John Trevelyan, of Nettlecomb, Somersetshire. Hence the direct line of the Calverleys is now represented in the female line by Sir Walter Calverley Trevelyan, of Nettlecomb and Wallington. Ere he sold his paternal estates and left the neighbourhood, Sir Walter Blackett made provision for the

poor by erecting a substantial poor-house, which still remains, although transformed into cottages; and also made over a good farm, the proceeds of which together realise the sum of £70. He also made a provision for the future vicars of Calverley, which is worth about £32 per annum, in addition to half the value of ten acres of glebe.

Returning now to the eventful year 1605, when James I. was King, and William Webster was Vicar of Calverley, the crime known as the "Yorkshire Tragedy" was perpetrated in the village. Although occurring nearly three centuries ago, this event has lost none of its melancholy interest to natives of Calverley, who point out the scene of its occurrence readily enough to those seeking such information. We have before us a copy of a play founded upon this tragic incident, which is entitled "A Yorkshire Tragedie: not so new as lamentable and true. Written by W. Shakspeare." The play was printed in 1608, and, although long believed to have been written by the great dramatist, more recent commentators have shown good cause for discrediting his authorship. A "broad sheet" printed about the period contained a "full, true, and particular account" of the occurrence, and copies are still in existence.

Walter Calverley, who then lived at the Old Hall, had married in 1601 Phillippa, the virtuous daughter of Brooke, Lord Cobham. By her he had three sons, William, Walter, and Henry. The register of Calverley Church records the baptism of the two younger sons as follows:—"Baptized in Oct., 1603, Walter, ye sone of Walter Calverley, Esq., ye viii daye," and "Baptized in October, 1604, Henry, sone of Walter Calverley, Esq., ixth daye." At the time of the tragedy the respective ages of the children would be two years, one year, and a few months old. A profligate and a gamester, deeply involved in debt, and unable to raise money on his hereditary estates, which were settled upon his eldest son; frenzied by drink, and possessed with most unjust jealousy of his wife—in a moment of ungovernable passion, the unhappy man rushed into a room (still existing) and stabbed his two eldest children, William and Walter, who were at play with their nurse. Aroused by strange cries, the mother rushed to their rescue, and seizing the second child, received the reeking dagger in her own breast. Fortunately her wound was slight, the poniard having glanced off a steel or whalebone stomacher which she wore, but the two children were slain. Still unsatiated with blood, the infuriated man rushed to the stables, took horse, and, believing his wife to be dead, rode off for Norton, purposing to slay his youngest child, Henry, who was out at nurse there. He was pursued and taken, his horse having fallen under him, tradition says at Woodhall Hills, but more

likely near Norton, as he was next day taken before Sir John Savile at Howley Hall, or as other accounts say, to Sir Thomas Bland at Kippax. By one or other (probably both) he was committed to Wakefield, in consequence of the prevalence of the plague at York, but was afterwards removed to the Castle at the latter place. The period of the occurrence is fixed by the following entry in the Calverley register :—"1605. Aprill. William and Walter, sonnes of Walter Calverley, Esq., buried ye xxiii day."

When brought to trial four months afterwards, the wretched man, from a desire to preserve his estates, refused to plead "guilty" or "not guilty," and, for this contempt, in accordance with a horrible law or custom of the period, heavy stones were placed upon his chest, until he either expired under the sufferings or consented to plead. It is said that the last breath was thus pressed out of the suffering man by his manservant, in answer to his own piteous cries, and that for this kindly office the faithful servant was himself executed. This incident gave rise to a saying still common in the district :—"Water o' Calverley—A pund o' more weight lig on, lig on." Previous to his trial it is said that an affecting interview took place between Walter Calverley and his wife, in which he expressed his belief in her fidelity. With true womanly love, she "forgot her own woundes and the death of her children, and did a lovinge kisse him and tenderley embrace him, as if he had never done wronge." The lady afterwards became the wife of Sir Thomas Burton, a Leicestershire gentleman. There is a tradition that Walter Calverley's body was stolen by his servants, and, after being carried from place to place, secretly buried in Calverley Church. Some confirmation was given to this story by the discovery, at the restoration of the church, near the place where the Calverleys were interred, of the skeleton of a man who had been buried without a coffin and was embedded in plaster. It is not true that the old family house was abandoned in consequence of the murder, for Henry Calverley, the surviving child, died in it fifty-six years after.

The room in which the "bloodie murther" took place remains much as it was, although the hall itself has undergone despoliation. The centre and one wing yet present somewhat of their original appearance. The private chapel of the family still in part exists, and, as well as the roof of the dining hall, exhibits features in construction bearing out Whitaker's assumption that the hall was erected about 1450. The few ancient windows which remain have trefoil heads ; the principal timbers are richly fluted, and spring from a wall-plate of strong oak. The rooms are not so remarkable for the oak wainscoting

as for the singular construction of the walls, which are composed of oak plank and concrete, covered with very ancient crayon drawings. Marks of blood, which, it is said, no amount of scrubbing can efface, are still, or used to be, shown on some of the floors of Calverley Hall; and it was also said the ghost of the murderer would continue to haunt the scene of his crimes while "holly grew green in Calverley Wood."

The awful affair caused great dismay and consternation among the occupants of the few thatched huts which then formed the village of Calverley, and less than thirty years ago the name of "Owd Cawverley," as the murderer was called, was spoken by the youngsters with 'bated breath. To raise "Owd Cawverley" was a common though awful and mysterious proceeding of the youth of that time. A number would gather in the old low porch of the church as the twilight deepened, and, after a silly and inexplicable ceremony, one of the number would repeat some doggerel rhymes respecting the murderer and his doom, and, peeping through the keyhole down into the gloomy body of the church, feebly lighted by a faint gleam from the windows of the north aisle, would cry out "Owd Cawverley's risen," when the whole lot would scamper off with real terror, as many still living well remember. The incantation also took other forms, but all with the same object of "raising Owd Cawverley." It was also currently reported that Walter Calverley and his man galloped about through the extensive woods at dead of night on headless horses, their burden still being the agonising cry of the tortured man—"A pund o' more weight, lig on, lig on!" The favourite haunt of the phantom horsemen was a cave which used to exist in Calverley Wood, near the Hanging Stone, but it was quarried out some thirty years ago. In this cave their spirits were finally "laid."

The year 1604 is famous for a presentment for witchcraft at the York Assizes, said to have been the last ever made in England. In that year the vicar, William Webster, with R. Harper, William Mosse, Warren Skelton, William Wilson, and John Swarther—names now extinct in the village—signed a certificate to the justices, setting forth that Robert Hare, Isabella Hare, his mother, Anne Brigg, and Elizabeth Birkenishaye, all of Calverley, had for the "space of twenty years been suspected to be witches," and "done much hurt to their neighbours." Read in the light of present knowledge, it is surprising that the lives and liberties of peaceable citizens could have been placed in jeopardy on such a plea, instigated, too, by the vicar of the parish. It must be remembered, however, that there was no firmer believer in the "black art" of witchcraft at that time than King James himself.

In almost any view of Calverley the substantial grey tower of the church is a conspicuous object, and the church itself is by far the most interesting building in the village. It has been recently restored, and is held to be one of the prettiest and most comfortable of country churches. It is supposed to have been founded about 1154, and has been several times altered, raised, and enlarged since that period. The earliest building of which certain evidence now remains was a Norman church, probably similar in size and character to the famed church at Adel. At a subsequent period the lower part of the side walls was taken out, the high part (which is still *in situ*) being supported in some mode or other, while pillars and arches were built up below. Aisles were then added to each side, and a clerestory built on the top. It was probably at the same time also that the lower stages of the present tower and the first chancel were built. In the fifteenth century another storey was added to the tower, and a chancel exactly like the present was erected. Many, however, are of opinion that at a still earlier period than any referred to men worshipped and were buried where the church now stands. Many of the window heads and sills of the old church were, when taken out, found to be tombstones of a very rude and ancient type—stones that have marked the grave of the gentleman, with floriated cross and sword; of the knight, with cross and shield and sword; and of the priest, with cross and chalice. They had no names or dates. These ancient monuments have been carefully relaid behind the north wall of the church, where they may be seen.

The eight bells now in the tower were hung in 1862, the cost (£202) being defrayed by public subscription. They were cast from six which had swung in the tower since 1745, and these six were, as an old parish book shows, cast in that year from three bells by Sellars, of York. Excepting a subscription of £10 from the vicar, the Rev. S. Dodgson, the money was raised by a church-rate, to which Pudsey, Idle, and Bolton seem to have contributed. It is highly probable that the same metal which called to prayer or mass when all were Catholics still performs a similar office after the lapse of many eventful centuries. The churchyard is very neatly kept. The most prominent object in it is a large monument of the White family, of All Alone and Upperwood. During the levelling of the burial-ground consequent on the restoration a stone was discovered recording the death of Agnes Broadley, who died in 1718, in her 106th year. This date and her age are confirmed by the parish register.

The restoration of the church, which took place in 1869-70, was carried out from the designs of Messrs. Healey, of Bradford, and, with

the cost of the organ, involved an outlay of about £4000. The contractor was Mr. John Tomlinson, of Leeds. Many special gifts were made on the occasion. The east window (said to have been taken from the private chapel in Calverley Hall), with its elegant tracery, was restored by Mrs. Horsfall and family, in memory of the late Mr. William Horsfall, of Calverley House. The west window was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Gray, of Calverley, who likewise presented the communion tablets and oak chancel rail. The other stained windows, which are in the chancel, were the gifts of the family of the late vicar, the Rev. S. Redhead; of the present vicar, the Rev. A. Brown and Mrs. Brown; the family of the late Mrs. Sykes, of Leeds; and another was given in remembrance of the late Dr. Ramsbotham. The opening services took place on August 3, 1870, when the Bishop of Ripon preached. It is satisfactory to record that the entire cost of the restoration was raised before the close of these services, and that nearly £500 was received from working men of the village.

The Vicarage, on the opposite side of the road to the church, is a low, irregular building, but with its strip of ever verdant lawn, shaded by tall beeches, and its old grey front almost covered with trailing plants, seems a very cozy dwelling. The older portion bears the date 1587. At some little distance there is another building called the "Old Parsonage," bearing the date 1713, but by whom erected does not seem to be known. The present vicarage, however, has been inhabited by the vicar, the Rev. A. Brown, M.A., for upwards of thirty years, he having been appointed in 1845. He was preceded by his father-in-law, the Rev. Samuel Redhead, who held the living for twenty-three years, and who died universally respected and beloved. This was the Mr. Redhead who, being appointed to the living of Haworth in 1819, found such a stormy reception from the inhabitants of that unknown and uncivilised place as speedily induced him to resign the preferment. A full account of these strange transactions may be found in Mrs. Gaskell's "Life of Charlotte Brontë." Mr. Redhead's predecessor was the Rev. Thomas Faber, A.M., who was appointed in 1771, and died in 1821, aged ninety-one years. He held the living for fifty-one years, and with it the living of Bramley above sixty-one years, and was for many years the oldest member living of St. John's College, Cambridge. His venerable son, the learned Stanley Faber, acquired considerable reputation by his writings, conspicuous among these being his "Dissertations on the Prophecies," "Horæ Mosaicæ," &c.

The vicariate of the three last-named gentlemen covers a period of over a hundred years. The list of vicars dates, however, from the year 1293, when the first appointment was made by the Sacrists of St.

Mary's Chapel, at York, and they continued to present until the reign of Edward VI., when in 1551 that King of pious memory appointed the first Protestant vicar in the person of Peter Kitson, who was probably ejected to make way for Richard Hodgson, a Romish appointment made during the time of Queen Mary. After presentments by Queen Elizabeth and the Archbishops of York, we come to Richard Waugh, a nominee of Cromwell, who had to make way for Benjamin Sandall, a native of Idle, who was appointed by Charles II. on his restoration in 1662. Samuel Ferrand, William Rawson, John Marshall, Chris. Holt, Samuel Dodgson, William Laidman, and Wilson Bewick, D.D., bring up the connection to the venerable Thomas Faber's time. The living, however, was never large. It is now put down at £275, and is in the gift of the Bishop of Ripon. The vicar of Calverley is patron of Idle, Pudsey, and Farsley, and is one of the five patrons of Windhill Church. The register of births begins in 1574, but there are wanting those for the period from 1643 to 1649. Burials and marriages began in 1596, but there is a blank from 1608 to 1628.

Calverley Old School stood originally in the centre of the churchyard. It was taken down in 1840, when a new school was erected at the top of a new piece of ground given by Mr. Thornhill for that purpose, and also as an enlargement of the old churchyard. Being found to be very inconveniently placed, this building was removed the following year to its present site, also given by Mr. Thornhill. It has been considerably enlarged since that time, and, along with the spacious playground in front of it, was vested in the vicar as trustee and sole manager. There is an endowment of about £8 a-year for the master, and of £2 for the general purposes of the school. The new infants' school and excellent master's house were erected in 1856, on a site given by the Thornhills, but on a different trust. It is worthy of notice that £500 covered the total cost of erecting this tasteful building, and also levelling and enclosing the commodious playground.

From very early times Calverley and Farsley have been connected as one township, and within the last ten years only have they been divided for sanitary purposes. As the parish includes Bolton, Idle, and Pudsey in addition, many of the names given below will belong to those places. In 1640, Edward Byrkenshay being churchwarden, William Sale and — Illingworth, overseers, disbursed to the poor £8 9s. 6d. Among the names which occur about that period are those of Samuel Moss, John Harper, Robert Thornton, Joseph Kitson, Robert Snowden, Robert Brayshay, and Richard Waugh (vicar). By way of contrast it may be noted that many single ratepayers now pay more than the above sum towards the poor-rate. One firm, Messrs.

Yewdall's, pays ten times as much, and the Midland Railway Company thirty times as much. In 1666 the names of Benjamin Sandall (vicar), Abraham Hainsworth, George Richardson, of Woodhall (uncle of the celebrated Dr. Richardson), and Samuel Moss are prominent. In 1704 occur the names of William Rawson (vicar), John Richardson, of Woodhall, John Elsworth, Joseph Booth, and Peter Gill. In 1728, a church-rate by a single "lay" for Calverley-cum-Farsley, realised £4 10s., of which Sir Walter Calverley paid 7s. This is confirmed by Adam Storey and John Cuttell. The latter was the "mine host" of the village, dispensing refreshment for "man and beast" at a little public-house which occupied the site of the present Thornhill's Arms. In the same year we find an entry in the overseers' accounts:—"Paid John Cuttell for lodging a black and his wife, 7d." In 1728, among the constable's accounts we have the following items:—

	s.	d.
Pd. Jeremy Booth for powl for ducking-stool	2	0
Felling and leading such powl	0	6
Paid Joseph Wade for whipping Edward Priestley	0	4

The "ducking-stool" was evidently a favourite instrument in use at Calverley for correcting "scolds," as was the whip for those of the other sex. The "ducking-stool" appears to be of Saxon origin, and consisted of a chair or stool, on which the offender was placed, and by the use of a long pole was let down into the water as a punishment for her vixenish propensities. In 1733 the following items appear:—

"New door for bell-chamber, 6d.; lock and key, 2½d.; school mossaing (the holes in the roof being then stuffed with that material) and rigging pointing, 1s. 6d.; six loads of lime, 2s. 6d.; six stroke of hair, 5d.; &c."

A little later (in 1749) we find:—

Paid John Gott towards rebuilding school	£4 11s. 6d.
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This John Gott was the ancestor of the Gott family of Leeds. The Gotts were the masons of the village, and were, besides, contractors for county bridges. So successful were they that they bought the residence at Woodhall Hills, afterwards occupied by Mr. Daniel Peckover. In 1746 we have an entry to the effect that "in order to keep the dogs out of the church, and to prevent any disturbance in time of worship," Sir Walter desired that a "proper person" be appointed, offering to give cloth for a suit of clothes for him provided the parish would make them up. Very appropriately, we also find an entry—"Paid for a whip, 1s." An entry, which frequently occurs, represents another old and, doubtless, serviceable custom which existed up to within the last forty years, viz.:—

Paid Robert Beecroft for ringing five and eight.

This useful servant for ringing the church bell at five o'clock and eight o'clock each morning and evening to rouse people to work, and to remind them of bed-time, received 5s. half-yearly. In 1766, Francis Thompson and Robert Turner being overseers, the sum of £149 was disbursed on poor account, out of which a "shot" of 10s. 6d. was paid, John Ross and William Walton attesting. In the bill containing this item there are various receipts on the creditor side for "Workhouse work," principally for spinning done by the paupers. The overseers at that time speculated in wool, bought oil, soap, &c., and the paupers made cloth in the poor-house, thus carrying out the idea conveyed in the word "workhouse." In 1782 an assessment at 3d. in the pound realised £33 18s. 9d.

Passing to the present century, we take the following items from the old town's records:—In 1814, Joshua Clarkson being surveyor, there was expended upon the highways, £49 4s. 2d.; Walter Farrer and Wm. Farrer, overseers, disbursed on poor account, £949 10s. 10d. (a terrible period that war time was!); and James Spence and Joseph Hainsworth received £63 17s. 1½d. as churchwardens. The township expenditure from the poor rates was last year upwards of £2300, and the Calverley Local Board alone expended £1125 on highway account. Although this sum contrasts with the less than fifty pounds spent in 1814, the present authorities are not a whit in advance of their fore-elders in the matter of "light," the village still remaining in primeval darkness, excepting on moonlight nights. The roads are, however, very creditably kept. In 1801 the population of Calverley was 1127, and of Farsley 954. The present population of Calverley is 3500, and the rateable value in the Local Board district is £15,347, while Farsley has a population of about 4000, and a rateable value of £11,160. In 1801 the population of the parish, which includes Bolton, Calverley-cum-Farsley, Idle and Windhill, and Pudsey, was 10,370. At the present time it is estimated at 37,000, and the rateable value at £100,000. The Enclosure Act for Calverley-cum-Farsley dates from 1754.

The Local Government Act was adopted in Calverley in 1866, and in November the Local Board was formed. The present members are—Mr. T. H. Gray (chairman), Messrs. Samuel Dalby, Thomas Pickard, William Grimshaw, Benjamin Brayshaw, John Pilley, Alfred Gray, Thomas Atkinson, and John Child; clerk, Mr. William Thornton.

In February, 1874, a School Board was formed for Calverley-with-Farsley, of which the following are the present members:—Mr. B. Waite (chairman), the Rev. A. Brown, and Messrs. Alfred Gray,

Elijah Slater, Reuben Gaunt, Joseph Parkinson, and T. H. Gray. Two schools under the management of the Board are in operation at Farsley.

Few manors have changed owners so seldom as that of Calverley. Indeed the manor of Calverley may be said to have been held by two families only from the time when herds of swine and young cattle were fed in the woods, and tended by Saxon churls, up to the present day. Fifty years ago the whole land of Calverley was held by two owners, the Thornhills and the Lamberts, of Baildon, the latter having one farm comprising many scattered fields. Neither family were sellers of land, but on the death of John Lambert, who died intestate in 1824, portions of his estate were sold off. As has been stated, Thomas Thornhill bought the Calverley estate in 1754. He died in 1800. Thomas Thornhill, his heir, died in 1844, and in 1852 and 1854, under the sanction of the Court of Chancery, Acts of Parliament were passed, cited as the "Thornhill Estates Acts," which enabled the trustees to sell by auction certain portions of land in Calverley and other villages, they having previously bought up Lambert's farm. Thomas Thornhill's only daughter, Clara, who was a ward in Chancery, was married in 1855 to William Capel Clarke, only son of T. T. Clarke, Esq., of Swakeleys, and he assumed the name of Thornhill. Mr. Clarke was formerly a captain in the 23rd Welsh Fusiliers, and served at the siege of Sebastopol. Mrs. Clarke-Thornhill has since died. At the above sale the principal purchasers were Messrs. Samuel, Joseph, and Robert Dalby, of Laisterdyke, the Messrs. Vint, of Idle, Mr. Daniel Peckover, Mr. David Yewdall, and Mr. Joseph Cliffe. With a view to develop the estate the trustees laid out Calverley Wood, Fagley, West Wood, and Spring Wood, and constructed a network of roads on a very comprehensive scale, the work being carried out by Messrs. Joseph Smith & Son. In carrying out the project it was necessary to interfere with some ancient footpaths in Calverley, and compensation was offered the inhabitants by conveying water to three places in the village, giving the site for a town hall, and depositing a sum of £200 for other purposes. To Farsley was given the site of a town hall and a piece of land of considerable extent for a recreation ground.

There being no freeholders upon the Calverley estate, few families of standing existed in the neighbourhood until recently. Excepting the Old Hall, Lodge Farm-house, the Vicarage, and an old timber-gabled building, which stood where now are the gardens of the Thornhill's Arms, there were few but one-storeyed thatched cottages. Previous to the rebuilding of the last-named "public" its sign was the

Old Leopard, and it was kept by the Gray family. In the old town's books entries may be frequently found—"Paid for refreshments at John Gray's." After the Grays came a person named Rothwell, and then the Spences, old James Spence keeping it until about eight years ago. For a long period this was the only public-house in the village.

Calverley House was built about eighty years ago by Thomas Thornhill, Esq., for his occasional residence. It was afterwards taken by John Wood, Esq., worsted manufacturer, of Bradford, and E. C. L. Kaye, Esq., the latter residing at it after his retirement from the worsted business. Mr. Kaye was an active magistrate for half a century, and for many years held a regular session at the "Spotted House," Manningham Lane, where a large share of the magisterial business of Bradford was formerly transacted. Mr. Kaye was the first Liberal member for Bradford after the passing of the Reform Act. He died at Manningham Hall in 1853, in his 79th year. Another resident was William Horsfall, Esq., brother to the present Timothy Horsfall, Esq., of Hawksworth, and a member of the firm of Horsfall Brothers, of Bradford. His gentlemanly and kind demeanour towards the poorer residents of Calverley is still remembered with respect. The late Samuel Smith, Esq., also resided there, and his son, Mr. S. M. Smith, now occupies the mansion.

The Thornhills generally residing upon their Fixby and Riddlesworth (Norfolk) estates, some importance attached to the former stewards, of whom the earliest we find mentioned is William Strother, who was steward in 1766. After him (in 1769) came Richard Clayton. He lived at Lodge Farm, and held the office until 1800, his son John succeeding him. Then, as under-stewards, came James Thompson, who is spoken of as a "high-handed man," and after him John Parkin. The chief stewardship during the time the two last-named held their appointments was entrusted to the late Richard Oastler, the "Factory King," who resided at Fixby. The present steward is Mr. G. H. Crowther, of Huddersfield.

One of the most numerous old Calverley families of recent times seems to have been the Grimshaws, probably of the same stock as the family of that name long resident at Rawdon. Peter and John were engaged in the worsted manufacture in 1797, but afterwards the former bought a farm on Hollins Hill, and the latter removed to Rawdon. The family were formerly Quakers. The Snowdens two hundred years back took an active part in town's business as surveyors, overseers, &c. Robert Snowden, of Milman Lane, Idle, who died recently, was of this family. The Grays are an old family, and are yet strongly represented in Calverley as woollen manufacturers. Samuel

Gray achieved a prominent position by means of that trade, and ran Rawdon Low Mills. His sons, William and Alfred, continue the business there. The late Samuel Gray died last year at Elmwood, which residence he had built. His nephew, Mr. T. H. Gray, is also a successful manufacturer, and is chairman of the Local Board. William Greenwood was a corn miller and scribbler at Calverley Mills, and his sons have since been connected with that place. Those mills have twice been destroyed by fire—once on the 9th June, 1822, and again on December 2, 1829. On October 21, 1775, Calverley Bridge was swept away by a great flood which then prevailed. John Hollings and John Thornton may be regarded as progressive men of their period (about 1797), as they each originated a “horse billy” to supersede hand labour. The latter also kept the Punchbowl Inn, said to have been used on more than one occasion by Nevison, the celebrated highwayman, who has been made famous by popular tradition and old ballad literature.

“Did you ever hear tell of that hero,
Bold Nevison, that was his name?”

After a long career of daring and successful crime he was executed at York in May, 1684. The first Calverley Thompson was an exciseman, and came from Rawdon. His son James became under-steward upon the Calverley estate. The Wallers were among the oldest tenant farmers on the Calverley estate. One of the family was *the* shopkeeper of the village for a generation. His son, William, was a wool dealer, and was well known throughout the district. The Pratts were also tenants for a long time, and two or three families of the name were the carriers of the village. There have been three generations of Cravens who have held the post of sexton. Benjamin Craven first “gathered them in;” then James, who was sexton for forty years; and his son has held that office now for twenty-five years. Abraham, a brother of James, was assistant overseer for a long time, and was succeeded in 1865 by Mr. William Thornton.

The late David Yewdall, Esq., although not a native of Calverley, had been long and prominently associated with the village. Having purchased a portion of the vicar’s land and another portion of the Lambert estate, he erected The Grange, and afterwards acquired a nice estate by purchasing largely of Thornhill’s trustees. He took great interest in the affairs of the village, and up to his death, about Christmas, 1874, he was chairman of the Local Board. He was also an alderman of Leeds. The cloth manufacture carried on by him for thirty years at Calverley Mills, and at Waterloo Mills, Bramley, is still continued by his sons, Zachariah and A. H. Yewdall. Until April,

1876, the leading partner in the firm was Mr. John Cliffe Yewdall, eldest son of the late David Yewdall, but by his sudden death on the 16th of that month a great loss was sustained not only by his family, but also by the community of which he was a member. Although only thirty-five years of age at his death, John Cliffe Yewdall had achieved a name and reputation denied to the generality of men of his years. He was a prominent member of the United Methodist Free Church, and a thorough Liberal in politics.

Methodism in Calverley appears to have been confined within small proportions for very many years. In 1781 we find mention of a society with sixteen members, James Overend being leader. Preachings, however, were held in Calverley for some years before that period, as it was about 1769 that Dicky Burdsall, a noted Methodist preacher, visited Calverley, and supposed himself to have been supernaturally disturbed in the house of Widow Overend. The story is told by the hero of the tale himself, and may be found in his "Life," but the scene of it is there described as the Old Hall. After being hospitably entertained he retired to rest, but was, by some invisible power, three times successively thrown out of bed on to the floor, and finally gave up the attempt to sleep. To make the story fit in with Dicky's statement that his room overlooked the churchyard, the scene has since been changed to the old Parsonage-house, where the Overends resided. It was not until 1832 that a Methodist Chapel was built, the chief promoter of it being Richard Grainger. The present chapel was erected in 1862.

The new Primitive Methodist Chapel at Calverley is a handsome structure, treated in the Italian style of architecture, and cost, exclusive of the land, about £2500. The opening services took place on Good Friday, 1872. The new edifice supplanted a very humble building, which the denomination have had since the year 1840, and which has now been purchased by the Baptists.

In 1874 the village received a valuable acquisition when the new Mechanics' Institute was opened. While the edifice will be of incalculable assistance in carrying on the educational work of the institute, the village is also provided with a handsome and useful public building. The style is domesticated Gothic. The cost of the building was about £2200. Previous to its opening in December, 1874, the struggling intellect of the village gathered in very lowly quarters; first in the upper loft of a mistal; then in similar quarters over a stable; and next in a cottage little superior. The present number of members of the institute is about 170.

Woodhall, one of the outlying hamlets of Calverley, was the

residence of George Richardson, one of the Richardson family of Bierley, who died at Woodhall in 1696. The estate afterwards passed to his grandson, and subsequently to another branch of the family. Lower Woodhall was, as previously stated, purchased by John Gott, of Calverley; and here Benjamin Gott, Esq., the celebrated woollen manufacturer, of Leeds, was born in 1762. He died in 1840, possessed of great wealth, and leaving behind him the precious heritage of a "good name." Of this family is the present Dr. Gott, vicar of Leeds. Lower Woodhall still belongs to the Rev. Dr. Gott, although for many years it was occupied by the late Daniel Peckover, who purchased and considerably improved an adjoining estate, now held by Mr. Algernon Peckover, of Wisbeach. The present resident at Lower Woodhall is Mr. William Mossman.

Thornbury, which twenty years ago had neither name nor existence, is also part of the township of Calverley, adjoining Bradford Moor, and is on each side of the Bradford and Leeds (new) Road. Old inhabitants of Calverley and neighbourhood will remember it as "Calverley Moor," and the stage coach drivers used to think it the bleakest part between Leeds and Bradford. Just about what is now the centre of Thornbury there used to be an old third-rate hostelry known by the euphonious name of the "Besom Inn."

About 1860 there were only about nine or ten families in what is now the populous district of Thornbury, and these used to fraternise with each other in very primitive and hospitable fashion. Parties were made during the Christmas time, at which it was the custom to invite the whole of the householders, and when any children were born there the joyful information was imparted by displaying a flag at the top of a huge staff. Sometimes, in addition to this, another flag was hoisted on the house where the addition had occurred. Now that the place is more thickly populated, when "everybody does not know everybody," this sort of social intercourse has necessarily fallen off. The land constituting Thornbury was held in fee simple by the late Thomas Thornhill, Esq., until his death in 1844. It was disposed of in 1854 under the "Thornhill's Estate Act," some of the purchasers being William Hill, William Pratt Tattersall, Richard Holmes, David Yewdall, Joseph Cliffe, and Samuel Dalby. Streets were soon cut through the estate, and plots have been sold to a considerable number of persons, who have erected houses in various styles of architecture, many of them being Gothic.

In 1864 the question of choosing a name for the new colony was mooted. Accordingly a meeting of the householders was convened on September 28th of that year, presided over by Mr. Alfred Beldon;

and at another meeting held on September 30th the name "Thornbury" was unanimously decided upon. There are five places where intoxicating liquors are sold and one tobacco mill, but as yet there is no church, chapel, or school in Thornbury. The district is attached to Calverley by its connection with the poor and Local Board rates, to Pudsey on gas and water account, and in parochial matters with St. Mary's, Laisterdyke. On account of its proximity to the borough of Bradford, and its close connection with Laisterdyke junction, Thornbury will almost inevitably become thickly populated.

Among the notabilities of Rodley Fold, which is at the other extremity of Calverley parish, were various members of the Hardaker family. Old John Hardaker, in addition to making a bit of cloth and farming, was learned in the law, and ultimately entered into partnership with Lawyer Nixon, of Horsforth. Joshua Hardaker, his son, was a "cropper," and Sarah, Joshua's wife, reached her ninety-fifth year. Another son, John, was a famous clockmaker, and accumulated considerable wealth thereby. His "Salem" clocks may be found in many houses round about. Another son, Robert, was a gardener, and in 1789 acted as gamekeeper to Squire Thornhill, then residing at Fixby, near Huddersfield. During the above year he sent to his master, from the Calverley preserves, 112lb. of fish and 90 head of game, comprising 21 hares, 45 partridges, 8 woodcocks, 8 judcocks, 1 moor game, 1 snipe, 2 pheasants, and 1 stockdove. Joseph Mathers was another old clothier and yeoman of Rodley Fold. The Clarks of Rodley are perhaps the oldest representatives of the gardening trade in this district. Nicholas Clark came with Sir Walter Blackett, as gardener, from Northumberland to Esholt. His son, Squire Clark, with the Robert Hardaker just named, broke up the nursery gardens at Rodley above seventy years ago, and they were continued afterwards by Will Clark, Squire's son, lately deceased, and now by his son Henry. Besides the above may also be named Watty Ross and Johnny Lister as among the old stamp long resident at this end of the township. The latter was landlord of the old Owl (or Hullet) Inn, Rodley, and also started one of the first scribbling machines by horse-power.

Farsley, by far the most important adjunct of Calverley, consists of an old and new portion, the older houses being ranged on each side of a long, winding street, which at certain points is "throttled" into inconvenient narrowness. John Turner, a local patriot, and a representative of an old Farsley family, collected subscriptions, and made some attempt to improve the village street, but although persevering, he was not able to effect much good. The Old Hall, now

rebuilt and converted into a beerhouse, seems to have been built by a Matthew Flathers, whose initial will be found upon a mantel-piece in the present house. Situated upon the southern slopes of the hill nearest to Calverley stands a colony of modern working-class dwellings, which present some features of regularity. These houses owe their origin chiefly to thrifty working-men. The land forming a portion of the allotments was disposed of under the "Thornhill's Estate Act, 1854," and many of the houses were built during the Russian War. Hence their name of "Alma." That portion of the village lying nearest to the Leeds and Bradford Road is named "New Farsley," and here, surrounded by plantations and shrubberies, successful business men of Farsley and Stanningley have built villas as tasteful as they are substantial. Among these may be named—Westfield (Mr. Israel Roberts'); Ashville (Mr. E. Slater's); West Royd (Mr. John Butler's); Springfield House (Mr. B. Waite's); and St. John's Villa (Dr. Lambert's). A new road, laid out by direction of Thornhill's trustees, gives access to these villas, and also provides another approach from Leeds Road to the centre of the village. Altogether, New Farsley puts to shame the older portion of the village. On the western side of a pleasant road leading from Farsley to Priesthorpe are The Grange and Springwood, occupied by the respective owners, Mr. Isaac Gaunt and Mr. Reuben Gaunt. On the opposite side we have Wadlands Hall, doubtless of historical interest, now belonging to Mr. John Woodhouse. In few places are religious and educational appliances more ample than at Farsley. The Church of St. John, with the Vicarage and the National Schools (all comparatively modern), together form an imposing group; the Methodist Free Church and School, the new Baptist Chapel, and the Wesleyan Chapel are equally noble monuments of the voluntary principle. Farsley also includes a portion of Stanningley, which latter place has no *locus standi* except in name, and here are situate one or two of the principal manufactories, as well as Stanningley Hall, the residence of that substantial family, the Varleys.

Farsley is about a mile from Calverley, and, as we have seen, has always been associated with it, but in many respects they might have been unconnected and at a much greater distance from each other. In antecedents, in customs, and even in character there is a dissimilarity in the two communities which is most apparent. Unlike Calverley, Farsley has long contained many small freeholders, who, not being tied to the skirts of some lord of the village, territorial or commercial, have in past times somewhat demonstratively exercised the privilege their holdings gave them. Unlike Calverley, too, Farsley

is a nursery of Dissent, and contains a strong "free thinking" element, especially on matters political and religious. As a consequence, such a community soon "put their backs up" at anything savouring of dominancy and oppression, whether immediately affecting themselves or not. An indication of the Puritan element may still be found in the numerous Scripture names which abound in the village. Both Calverley and Farsley contain many examples of thriftiness. Having "addled their bit o' brass, ivvery hawpenny," it is invested with no small amount of care and anxiety. Instances are not wanting where the security of a bank is not good enough, and coin is considered safer in an old teapot or stocking-foot.

At both places the prevailing topic is "w-o-o-o-l," with a considerable emphasis on the vowels, and "cops," "webs," &c., are household words. In Farsley, especially, the not very elegant long blue smock is the favourite full-dress of some of the old "slubbers." Of late years, however, many Farsley people have forsaken the clothing trade of their fathers, and have taken to the worsted and iron trades, both trades being located at Stanningley, while some departments of the former business have become established in the village of Farsley. Calverley is still exclusively engaged in the manufacture of woollen cloth, and is the only village near to Bradford so engaged. Up to the present period, too, all the cloth-weaving there is done by hand; but it is only proper to record that steam power-looms have just been set to work in Holly Park Mill, not, however, without terrible forebodings on the part of some of the old people that the "factory system" will bring ruin and demoralisation to Calverley, as it is fast doing to the rest of England. Having been so long used to working at home, beginning and leaving off when they liked, the "ringing on" and "ringing off" of the factory bell grates terribly on their ears. Although strong on these points, they are equally strong in asserting that "paahr-leums" never did and never will turn out work equal to hand-weaving.

The clothing trade has long been located in the district. Among the earliest entries in the Calverley registers (which commence in 1574), we find the trade of "clothier" named, and probably for long before that the trade existed in the village. It is certain that in the hundred years which elapsed after 1443, when it had become established at Halifax, it was extended to Bradford, Leeds, and other towns in the Riding, traces of its existence being discoverable in the fulling mills which are mentioned in old charters. For a long period we may suppose little, if any, improvement was made in the processes of manufacture. Everything was done by hand, and that, owing to the

many and varied processes, at a very slow rate. The wool was first to wash, which was often done at the town-well, near which was the "Leodus," or dyehouse. It was then laid on a hill-side, beaten with sticks, and put into a swing or "fleyk" to tease it and open the fibre. Long wool was actually chopped up in very rude fashion in order to make it into "shorts." Each clothier generally dyed his own wool, and old people talk with some glee of the nights they have sat up boiling dyewood in a pan to prepare liquor for dyeing the wool. Then there was the fuss and bother of oiling and blending the wool, next the scribbling and carding by hand, and then it was spun by the very slow process of one thread at a time! The yarn was then ready for weaving in a broad loom, which required two to work it. Next came the scouring process, and the seeking up of "wesh" for that purpose. The piece was then taken wet on horseback to Buck Mill, Esholt, or Shipley, to "miln," (*i.e.*, to be milled or fulled), and probably whoever was in charge of it must wait until far into the night before he could get his turn at the "stocks." Returning home perhaps at day-break, the cloth was "tentured"—that is, if weather permitted. If not, it was repeatedly turned to keep it from rotting, awaiting finer weather! To scribble 24lbs. of wool was a day's work for a skilled workman, for which he would receive 1s. To card, spin, and afterwards wind 6lbs. of the same material was an extra day's work for a strong woman, and at the end of it she would have earned 1s. 1d. About 1777 the spinning jenny was introduced into Farsley by Eli Pearson, and the one thread spinners came from all round to see this wondrous machine spinning twenty threads at once. The effects which were likely to follow the general use of this wonderful engine were looked forward to with great horror by many who saw in it nothing but ruin. The first jenny (introduced about ten years afterwards) which came into Calverley was set up in Joe Marshall's house. A little later, about 1790, improvements were made in the process of scribbling, and horse-power was brought in for working a one-swifted scribbling machine. The first horse-gin in Farsley was set going in 1791, at Cobblegate, by Abraham Grimshaw and Abraham Keighley. Samuel Busfield had another in the Old Fold. In Calverley, John Hollings and John Thornton were the pioneers who substituted horse-power for hand labour. Another billey, carder, and scribbler at Stone Stile belonged to Joseph Greenwood and Samuel Waite. Another at Priesthorpe was called "Jim Child's Jimcrack," as the ingenious owner erected a windmill there with four sails, but the scheme did not answer. About the same period the huge shuttle (a veritable "weaver's beam") was superseded by a smaller implement, and one man was

found sufficient at a loom. After the horse-mills had served their time, Joseph Strickland put up an atmospheric engine in what was called the Old Company Mill at Stanningley, now Mr. Waite's Temperance Mill. The next engine was erected at the Old Mill, Stanningley, by John Varley, father of the late Mr. John Varley. The market in the early part of last century was held on Leeds Bridge; it was afterwards removed to Briggate, and there the master clothier repaired with his goods, often carrying his week's manufacture upon his head, and his dinner in his pocket! If he had a piece unsold he left it till next week at the Rodney, or else trudged home with it again.

Towards the latter end of last century the worsted trade had also a small footing in Calverley, and was carried on by Peter and John Grimshaw and Will Dibb. Although there are yet few cloth mills in Calverley proper, the Grays, and one or two other families largely engaged in the trade, have occupied factories in adjoining places. Calverley Bridge Mills, run for thirty years by the late Mr. David Yewdall, belong to the lord of the manor; Clover Greaves Mill was erected about 1833 by a company composed of Messrs. Kellett, Brown & Co., having a capital of £2700 taken up in £25 shares. Holly Park Mill is a joint-stock concern, and was erected in 1867. A weaving shed was lately added, and power-looms have been introduced. Ravencliff Mill, at Calverley Beck-bottom, is also of recent construction, and is owned by Messrs. James Harper & Sons.

The Old Mill at Stanningley was built about 1794, by John Varley, the founder of a family who have since acquired considerable reputation, principally as worsted stuff manufacturers. This is probably the oldest mill in the district. The first steam cloth mill in Farsley was Broom Mill. This was built by Samuel Walton, and now belongs to Mr. John Turner. Cape Mill, although just over the boundary, essentially belongs to Farsley, and with it will ever be associated the name of Hainsworth—than which few will be longer remembered in the annals of Farsley. It was built by Mr. Pollard, of Horsforth, and was first driven by a water-wheel. Abimelech Hainsworth, the founder of the commercial reputation of the family, commenced his business career at Cape Mill, first as occupier, but in 1813 he and his brother Joseph became the purchasers. Abimelech (or Old Bim, as he was familiarly called) was in his time a tower of strength to Farsley, and little wonder that he should be known as "t'owd maister," as he kept half the village "agate." After Abimelech's death in 1836, his sons continued the manufacture of army cloths, for which this family long maintained a reputation. His sons Daniel and Peter were fine specimens of Yorkshiremen, and, like members of other branches

of the family, left a name which will long endure. Cape Mill was afterwards carried on by John Hainsworth (a son of Abimelech), and his sons, one of whom, Charles Hainsworth, died much respected only last November. The premises and plant have since been purchased by Mr. Reuben Gaunt, who, with Mr. Abimelech W. Hainsworth (both grandsons of the elder Abimelech), continues the manufacture of army cloth under the name of "John Hainsworth & Sons."

The building of Sunnysbank Mills, in 1830 and 1836, marked an epoch in Farsley. Previous to that time a strong kinship had existed in the village, and few that were not Farsley born lived, or perhaps could have existed in it. Upon its erection, however, more hands were required, and as machinery had then, and not until then, come to be looked upon by the natives as inevitable, no opposition was offered to its introduction. The project was taken up by a company in 128 shares of £25 each, the following being the principal shareholders, viz., James Roberts, Jonathan Ross, John Fairbank, John Hainsworth, Jonathan Marshall, John Gaunt, Nathan Overend, Wm. Wade, Joseph Ross, jun., John Turner, and Benjamin Hainsworth. The ground was purchased of John Fairbank.

In addition to the above there are several other mills in Farsley, viz., Nether Cape, first built as a warehouse and factory by Jonathan Ross; altered, enlarged, and used as a mill by Peter and Daniel Hainsworth: now owned by Messrs. Pearce and Wood; Black Dyke Mill, owned by Messrs. Jabez Johnson & Co., and occupied by them together with Mr. Joseph Ross and Mr. John Ackroyd; and Springfield Mill, built by Messrs. Reuben Gaunt & Sons, who are largely engaged in the cloth manufacture, and also as combers and spinners of worsted yarn for the Bradford market. Another little factory is just being fitted up by Mr. E. Woodhouse for the manufacture of worsted coatings. Two of the principal Stanningley manufactories are within the Farsley boundary, and others outside it belong to Farsley men. At Providence Mill, Mr. Elijah Slater, Mr. Israel Roberts, and Mr. Jeremiah Slater are largely engaged in the cloth trade. Mr. Benj. Waite, by genuine native industry, also occupies a leading position as a cloth manufacturer at Temperance Mill, formerly Company Mill. Messrs. Smith & Wade run Upper Mill, late Varley's. Mr. Isaac Gaunt, like his brother, Mr. Reuben Gaunt, has combined with the cloth trade the preparing and spinning of worsted yarn for the Bradford trade. To keep pace with his extensive business, he has commenced the erection of one hundred cottages adjoining his works. Messrs. Varley's old cloth mill has been alluded to, along with its founder John Varley. His son Samuel, it is said, gave up the cloth manufacture

rather than introduce "mungo," and turned his attention to the worsted trade, in which the family, represented by William and Samuel Varley, sons of the last named John, have been largely engaged. Mr. William Varley died in 1864, and is buried in Farsley churchyard.

Among notable Farsley men was Thomas Sagar, a large farmer of lands belonging to the vicar of Tong, who had an extensive holding in Farsley. The last remnant of these church lands was sold off about two years ago. Sagar also employed a few wool-combers and made "tops." He died in 1822. His grandson was Sagar Musgrave, Esq., of Bramley. Samuel Barnes, a wool-dealer, previously occupied the house so long tenanted by Sagar. Jonathan Marshall, a drysalter, afterwards lived in Sagar's house, and carried on the above business, in the days when there was "something at it." His son, the present Mr. Jonathan Marshall, continued the business until recently. Wm. Nicholls, another Farsley man, left considerable property. James Turner, who died in June, 1876, aged 91 years, was one of the old cloth manufacturers, having been formerly connected with Providence Mills, Stanningley. Until the disruption he took an active part among the Wesleyans, but since that time he had been connected with the United Methodist Free Church, and was a class-leader. He was highly esteemed in the village.

Besides its clothing trade Calverley possesses valuable seams of stone, which come to the surface in Calverley Wood and Woodhall Hills. The beds worked are sandstone, coarse and fine, and both of them hard and durable, especially when exposed to weather. The stone is exported for the construction of docks and similar purposes, and from it the two fine lions in front of Bolton Town Hall were chiselled. John Winn, a Cornish man, first probed and worked this stone, and since then Mr. Israel Thornton and the late Mr. Archibald Neill have worked it under lease from Thornhill's trustees.

The strong Dissenting element prevalent in Farsley is not difficult to trace to the preaching and subsequent persecution of the Rev. Elkanah Wales, who, after a useful ministry of fifty years at the Old Chapel at Pudsey, was forced for conscience sake to give up his living upon the passing of the Act of Uniformity, in 1662. His ministry at Pudsey had been attended by such Farsley families as those of Clarkson, Barnes, Wales, Walton, Walker, Ross, and Pearson, whom he visited and preached to until driven away by the operation of the Five Mile Act. Strongly sympathising with their late pastor (to whom as such and as a native of Idle they were doubly attached) several of the above became pronounced Presbyterians, and encouraged the visits of such wandering Gospellers as Oliver Heywood. In Heywood's

diary for December 3, 1666, he says:—"On Wednesday night I preached at Joseph Kitchen's, Farsley, where I had a good auditory." Descendants of the above families attended the Presbyterian Chapels at Bradford and Pudsey, with which latter place several were connected as trustees until the beginning of this century. Others, and among them the Overends, Marshalls, Pearsons, and Baileys, were drawn towards that form of worship practised by the Baptists, and met at Rawdon others similarly minded. In course of time a number of them joined the Baptist Church at Bradford, under the pastorate of Mr. Crabtree. In 1777, with the consent of Mr. Crabtree, Rehoboth Chapel, at Bagley, was built, the following persons signing the trust deed:—William Greenwood, miller; Edward Walton, dry-salter; and Joseph Marshall, John Ross, John Keighley, Samuel Busfield, John Walker, William Walton, Eli Pearson, and John Wade, all clothiers. The dimensions of that chapel were very small, only 42ft. by 33ft., but nevertheless it was and long remained a centre to which resorted the Baptists of Horsforth, Pudsey, Stanningley, and Bramley. Abraham Marshall was the principal subscriber to this chapel with the parsonage adjoining, the next in amount being William Greenwood, of Calverley Bridge.

In 1782 twenty-two persons formed themselves into a church, comprising many whose descendants are now associated with it. The Rev. Mr. Roe was the first minister, and during his pastorate a gallery was added, increasing the accommodation to 300 sittings. Mr. Roe died in 1795, in the 63rd year of his age. During the brief ministry of Mr. John Whitehead and Mr. Ashworth, the cause prospered, but during many years after 1800 a dark cloud settled over the church, and much division took place owing to the misconduct of a minister who had come on probation. The more active members withdrew and joined the Baptist Church at Bramley, with which they were associated for over twenty years. So much reduced was the church at Farsley during this period, that from the church books it appears that the sacramental contributions only amounted to 4s. or 5s. For several years this ordinance was entirely discontinued, and for five years not a single member was added to the church roll. In 1807 Mr. John Sharp, father of Dr. Sharp, of Boston, U.S., was ordained, and for some years eked out a living at the joiner's bench. This good man continued to occupy the pulpit until 1821, when he died in the seventy-eighth year of his age. Little or no progress was made during his pastorate. The chapel services were cold and cheerless, but the Baptist cause was to a considerable extent kept alive in the village by the nine or ten families connected with Bramley Chapel, who for

twenty years met together once or twice a week for worship. Besides this, Mr. Jonathan Marshall offered his house to the students of Dr. Steadman, of Horton College, and they for years preached at Farsley once a month.

It was one of these students, Mr. Jonas Foster, a native of Allerton, who succeeded to the pulpit of Farsley Chapel in 1824, and new life was imparted to the Baptist cause. No golden arguments were offered to him, the highest estimated stipend not reaching to the orthodox forty pounds a year, but nevertheless it was soon discovered that the right man for the place had been found. Much success attended his labours, and both pastor and people were very active in prosecuting the good work in the surrounding district. In 1835 a preaching-room was opened at Rodley. In 1836 Farsley Chapel was rebuilt and enlarged, and called Rehoboth, and again in 1844 another enlargement took place, making the building 75ft. by 42ft. In 1850 a Baptist Chapel was built at Pudsey, chiefly through the aid of Farsley people. In 1851 the Village School, which ever since its erection in 1807 had been used by the Baptists for a Sunday school, had another storey added to it by their aid. In 1859 a cemetery and a new parsonage-house, each costing about £650, were completed and the cost defrayed. After more than thirty-four years of honourable labour, Mr. Foster resigned in 1858, and was succeeded by the Rev. Edward Parker, who still remains the minister.

The foundation-stone of the present handsome chapel at the foot of Priesthorpe Lane was laid on April 14, 1868, and will long stand as a noble monument of the zeal of the Baptists of Farsley. The building is 94 feet long and 58 feet wide, and affords room for 1200 sittings. Externally the chapel is of Italian design, with a handsome projecting portico twenty-five feet in width, surmounted by a bold entablature and ornamental vases. A massive cornice and pediment are other notable features. The chapel stands in rather over an acre of ground, which is tastefully laid out, the whole presenting an imposing appearance. The cost of the erection was £4000, and nearly the whole of this was raised before the close of the opening services in October, 1869. In the chapel there is a marble monument in memory of Mr. Peter Hainsworth, who died in March, 1853. Mr. Hainsworth was a devoted Baptist, an earnest Dissenter, and essentially a good man. His death at the early age of forty-three years was esteemed a public loss, not only in the village where he was so well known, but by a large circle outside. On the opposite side of the pulpit there is another monument in memory of the Rev. Jonas Foster, who was for so many years pastor of the church.

The Methodist Chapel at Farsley was opened in 1827, and a school-room was afterwards attached to accommodate 160 scholars. The interest is, however, much older than that, as we find in a record of the Bradford Circuit of 1781 Farsley is credited with eighteen members of the society, John Turner being their leader. Turner may be justly regarded as the father of Methodism in the village. For many years his house was both a sanctuary of the cause and a home for its ministers. He died in 1808, having then been fifty years a member of the Methodist Society. For many of these years he officiated as local preacher in the Bradford Circuit. In 1845 a new chapel was built, and the old one was used as a school. The society being much divided by the Reform agitation of 1849-50 this chapel was put up by auction in 1851, and was purchased on behalf of that section favouring the Reform movement. By them it was in 1862 extended to its present proportions, at a cost, with organ, of £1600. The old Wesleyans, being but few in number, for some years rented a room, until in 1865 they were able to build their present chapel.

In July, 1869, the Reformers, now the United Methodist Free Church, who comprise within their ranks some of the most substantial manufacturers of the village, opened the very handsome school premises adjoining the chapel, the style adopted being Italian. The site, with some old buildings upon it, cost £520, the amount expended upon the new erection being over £2000. On the occasion of laying the foundation-stone about 1000 persons partook of "the cup that cheers but not inebriates." A bazaar held in 1873 cleared off all liabilities both of chapel and schools, and left a surplus of £300, no less than £1600 being received from this source. These schools will accommodate 500 day scholars. For seventeen years the master was Mr. George Haynes, who retired when the schools were undertaken by the School Board.

The ecclesiastical district of St. John's, Farsley, was formed out of the old parish of Calverley, and the present church was erected in 1843, chiefly through the exertions of the Rev. S. Redhead, vicar of Calverley, who laid the foundation-stone on July 8, 1842. It is a substantial edifice, built of local sandstone, with tower, nave, and chancel. The church was built by subscription, of which only £16 was given in Farsley, aided by a grant from the Church Building Society, the total cost being £1892. The church was re-opened on February 2, 1876, after extensive alterations, the most important being the re-pewing of the body of the church in oak, the building of a side chapel, and the erection of an organ, the cost of the latter being £550. The entire cost of these works was about £1500, £1000 of which was

raised beforehand by that useful institution a "bazaar," and the remainder at the same time by subscriptions. The first incumbent was the Rev. Irwin Lloyd, M.A., who afterwards removed to the South, where he died in 1858. The present vicar, the Rev. Parsons J. Maning, has held the living since 1846.

For a modern erection, the church is rich in memorial windows, the chancel windows being filled with beautiful stained glass erected in memory of the Rev. Samuel Marsden, previously alluded to as a missionary in Australia and New Zealand. He was born in 1764 in Turner Fold, Farsley, and afterwards learned the trade of a blacksmith at Horsforth. After passing through Cambridge University, he was appointed in 1792 chaplain to the new Australian Colony at Sydney, and in this capacity he took great interest in the commercial development of the colony, and was the first to introduce Australian wool into England. He was the first white man that succeeded in teaching the New Zealanders religion, agriculture, and the arts of civilisation. He died at Sydney in 1838, aged seventy-four years. The subject of the triple window over the communion table is the Good Shepherd, and the four side windows represent the Evangelists. They were erected by subscription in 1867.

The National Schools were built in the years 1847 and 1851 by subscription, and cost about £1800, exclusive of the land, which was given by Miss Clara Thornhill. The day schools have been efficiently conducted by Mr. Joseph Turner for some years. The Vicarage was erected in 1848, having cost about £1000.

The old Village School was built by subscription in 1807 on a strip of waste ground by the roadside. The ground was legally made over to the trustees in 1847, by Mr. John Wood, of Bradford, who also gave an additional portion. It was built for a day school, but a Sunday school was commenced in 1809, and was continued as an undenominational institution for about twenty years. Since 1829 it has been conducted by members of the Baptist congregation of Farsley. For more than twenty years of its earlier existence as a Sunday school reading and writing were the chief matters attended to, little attempt being made to impart religious instruction, but upon the Baptists obtaining the chief control, this order of things was reversed, and in course of time secular instruction was altogether discontinued. The day school has until recently been conducted on the British School Society's system, when it was rented by the Farsley School Board.

The Local Government Act was adopted in Farsley in 1866, the first Local Board being elected in March of that year. The following are the present members:—William Firth (chairman), Isaac Gaunt,

Thomas Hollings, John Ackroyd, Peter Womersley, Joseph Pearce, John Turner, and James Cockshott. One seat is vacant. The clerk is Mr. W. J. Watkins. The rateable value of the district is £11,160, and the estimated population 4000. The village was lighted with gas last year by the Pudsey Gas Company. In 1860 a company was formed in the village, with a capital of £6000, to extend the gas plant then belonging to Mr. Joseph Whitaker, but the scheme was bought up by the Pudsey Gas Company.

Forty or fifty years ago Pudsey enjoyed a somewhat unenviable reputation; its inhabitants were considered rude, intractable, and scarcely amenable to the common laws regulating order and courtesy; the very name of the place furnished amusement for many a long year; and anything belonging to it was thought fair game for sport. Whatever foundation there might have been at the period referred to for the imputation above alluded to, it is now within the truth to say that a better-ordered community does not exist in the West Riding. Certainly the inhabitants "have their ways." They are strong-minded, and are not to be "put on." Adopting their own expression, they will "fight like tigers" for an opinion. Politics, friendship, kinship go for nothing in a question of doubtful policy. Refinement of manners is certainly not a characteristic of the people, but other sterling qualities make amends. They are industrious and frugal, and, as has been said of Yorkshiremen generally, they "seem more anxious to acquire riches than ostentatiously to display them." In fact, in no township that we have any acquaintance with is the true West Riding type of Yorkshire character to be met with in greater natural strength than at Pudsey. In physique the native-born Pudseyite is generally sinewy and squarely-set, and shows no affectation in his walk. In conversation he is equally guileless, and forgets not his mother-tongue, even though he might have been on a trip to London for a whole week.

Pudsey is a township in the parish of Calverley, and comprises within its boundaries the hamlet of Tyersal, part of Stanningley, and the Moravian settlement of Fulneck. It is further noticeable as consisting of numerous members, formerly detached clusters of houses, but now forming an extensive town. The chief of these districts are Lowtown, Fartown, Chapeltown, Littlemoor, Greenside, Marsh, Allcotes, Gibraltar, Windmill Hill, Troydale, &c. Numerous smaller divisions might also be named, as—Crimbles, Roker Lane, Bankhouse, Westroyd Hill, Smalewell, &c. Chapeltown is probably the oldest part of Pudsey, and was so named from the old chapel which was in existence in 1577. Lowtown and Fartown sufficiently indicate their

meaning. The term Littlemoor was used to distinguish it from the Upper Moor, both of which were common lands sixty years ago. Greenside, with Greentop and Greenbottom, surrounded a large open space called the Green, on which sports not tolerated by our present civilisation formerly took place. Westroyd Hill was probably clothed with timber like the opposite banks of Black Carr; within recent times the boundary between Pudsey and Tyersal was marked by a broad belt of young wood. Windmill Hill was so named from the windmill, the walls of which now stand; and Gibraltar from the rocky nature of the locality caused by the huge deposits of stone from the adjoining quarries. The excellent quality and durability of the building stone quarried in the township are justly celebrated throughout England.

Being at a considerable elevation, Pudsey commands most extensive views of the surrounding country, and from the heights above Greentop it is said that Pontefract Castle can be seen with the aid of a glass. It is about equi-distant from Leeds and Bradford, and its eastern and western extremities (Troydale and Swaine Green) abut upon those boroughs. Pudsey is also a very ancient seat of the woollen manufacture, which in recent years has been supplemented by the several branches of the worsted trade. Before very long a sharp struggle for supremacy will probably arise between these the two principal staple manufactures.

The number of small freeholders residing in Pudsey has long been a noticeable feature of the place; but, while this has doubtless imparted a strong feeling of independence to the people, it has not been without its disadvantages. In few places is there so much irregularity observable as in the older buildings at Pudsey, and many of them are of the meanest pattern. "Proputty, proputty, proputty" has its responsibilities as well as its privileges. Forty years ago Pudsey had the reputation of being the "dirtiest of all the clothing villages in the West Riding." Even at a comparatively recent Government inquiry the Commissioner declared its sanitary arrangements to be "woefully defective." There is still a great want of drainage, but when the scheme which has recently been decided upon by the Local Board has been carried out it will contrast fairly with most places "round about Bradford." As a proof of the progress and development of the place it may be stated that the Local Board has recently passed plans for the building of no fewer than 220 dwellings, mostly for the artisan class. A line of railway is also being constructed through the heart of the town; and a large cemetery, with handsome mortuary chapels, has been opened in the centre of the township. In

few places is church, chapel, and school accommodation more abundant than in Pudsey. This is a most marked and significant feature, and one which cannot fail to attract the attention of any casual visitor. There are nineteen places of worship in the township, which, if their capacities were taxed, would hold 10,000 persons, or two-thirds of the population, while the Sunday schools in connection with the above afford accommodation for nearly all the children of the town.

After this brief summary of the chief characteristics of Pudsey, some attempt may be made to recapitulate the principal features of its history, premising, however, that but scant justice can be done to the subject in the brief space at command. Pudsey possesses in Mr. Simeon Rayner an enthusiastic townsman and an indefatigable collector of local information. To his kindness in placing at our disposal his entire collection of memorabilia, we are indebted for such an *embarras de richesses* as makes the task of selection somewhat difficult. Commencing with an extract from Bawdwen's translation of the Domesday Book, we learn that "In Podechesaie Dunstan and Stainulf had eight carucates of land to be taxed where there may be four ploughs. Ilbert has it, but it is waste. Value in King Edward's time forty shillings. Wood pasture half-a-mile long and half broad." It is more than probable that there would not be a single human habitation at Pudsey at that period. In tracing the construction of its name to the present time the principal variations we have met with are—Podechesaie, Podeseey, Poduscey, Pugesay, Puddesay, Pudsev.

Ilbert de Lacy's estates given to him by the Conqueror being far too extensive to be held in demesne, he granted a portion of his lands at Pudsey in fee to one Richard, a Norman, who, in accordance with the custom in his own land, added the name of Pudsey, and was the founder of the family of that name, whose descendants afterwards settled at Bolton Hall, near Gisburn-in-Craven. Richard de Pudsey, or one of his descendants, it is said, built the first Manor House, no doubt where the present Manor House now stands, about the same time that Kirkstall Abbey was founded, viz., in the year 1153. Simon, the son and heir of Geoffrey Pudsey, married Catherine, the heiress of John, lord of Bolton, near Gisburn, to which place he removed in the reign of Edward II., and thus was commenced the Bolton branch of the Pudsey family. The present representative of the family is Capt. Pudsey Dawson, late of Hornby Castle. The Pudsey family were very liberal donors to Kirkstall, and besides them there were several others equally generous, including Sir Walter Calverley, who gave in Pudsey thirty-three acres. Adam Sampson, of Pudsey, also gave five acres of land in Pudsey to Kirkstall Abbey, and his son,

Walter Sampson, gave an annuity of 2s. and one meadow, with all his lands in Grimflat. This Walter was one of the few persons who were honoured with burial in the Abbey. In all there were about sixty-eight acres of Pudsey land so disposed of. For a long period Pudsey became debateable ground, and furnished an arena for conflict between the Abbots of Kirkstall and the Lords of Calverley, but the priests at last partially prevailed, and secured to themselves a considerable portion of the township. It is said that they wrested the Hough Common from the Calverleys, and added it to Bramley, where they held undisputed sway.

The Calverleys from early times held lands in Pudsey. According to the *Nomina Villarum*, taken in 1285, John de Calverley was returned as Lord of Calverley-et-Pudsey, and under him Hugo de Woodhall and many others held sub-tenures, and were liable on any occasion when he thought necessary to do him suit and service. Whether John de Calverley's family acquired the manor from the Pudseys or it was originally bestowed upon them we know not. At any rate the Calverleys possessed it in 1649, when the manor and estates were purchased from Walter Calverley by Tempest Milner (son of Samuel Milner, of Pudsey), a citizen and alderman of London, whose family settled at Pudsey in the reign of Edward II. They were resold by him to Henry Calverley in 1650. Robert Milner, brother to the above, who married Ann, daughter of Robert Ferrand, of Harden, re-purchased the manor and estates from Walter Calverley in 1663. John Milner, by his will, dated 1708, devised his Pudsey estates to his eldest son, Dr. John Milner, who, dying intestate, left them to his brother Charles, of Preston Hall, Kent. He entailed them upon his nephew, Charles Cottam, who, on succeeding to the same, assumed the name of Milner, and held the manor up to 1839. The family of the Milners were great friends of the persecuted Nonconformist ministers after the eventful period of 1662. Oliver Heywood, the father of Nonconformity in the West Riding, in his diary, referring to a visit to Pudsey in 1668, said, "The gentleman of the place (Mr. Milner) invited me to preach, and entertained me." John Milner was one of the witnesses to the will of the Rev. Elkanah Wales, the ejected minister of the Old Chapel, to whom he had been a constant friend.

About the year 1839 Charles Milner, Esq., who was then lord of the manor, sold freely of the family possessions in Pudsey, and disposed of the manorial rights to Mr. Wm. Stowe, who had acted as agent for the Milner family. Among the larger freeholders at the above period were the Farrer, Sharp, Varley, and Hutchinson families. Mr. Samuel Varley is now the chief owner of land in

Pudsey. As before stated, many small freeholders had acquired holdings by purchase, augmented by the portions allotted to them under the Enclosure Act of 1811. In the year 1867, Mr. Wm. Stowe, of Leicester, grandson of the steward, offered the manor by auction, but it was not sold; and it was afterwards purchased by Mr. Joseph Illingworth, of Pudsey, who now exercises the right of lordship with regard to minerals, &c. Mr. George Hinings bought the Manor House some years ago.

Up to within the last forty years the parochial affairs of Pudsey had little interest for the townsmen generally, and were managed by a few whose hobby it was. A reaction set in, however, about 1830, caused by certain questionable proceedings, which has scarcely to this day waned, and now in few places are township matters more keenly discussed and criticised. The earliest names of overseers that we find are for the year 1709, when Joshua Lumby and Matthew Moss were in office, being succeeded by John Hey and Richd. Sugden. In 1743, Benj. Gaunt, Thomas Johnson, Eli Pearson and Joseph Elsworth held the office. In 1766, Mr. Richard Hey was one of the overseers, and died in February of the same year. He was the father of Wm. Hey, Esq., F.R.S., Rev. John Hey, D.D., R. Hey, Esq., LL.D., and the Rev. Samuel Hey, M.A. From 1765 to 1802, two hundred and twelve children were put out as town's apprentices, and eighteen persons paid a fine of £10 each, in lieu of taking apprentices during the same period. In February, 1802, it was resolved to discontinue the old Poorhouse at Littlemoor, and dispose of the occupants as soon as possible; and an agreement was made with John Cooper, of Littlemoor, to board and find fire for the paupers for one year, at the rate of 3s. per week per head, he to have their earnings for his own benefit. The old Poorhouse is now used as a warehouse by Mr. Jessop. In consequence of the great distress which existed among the labouring poor in 1816, many of the inhabitants were employed in repairing the roads, and subscriptions were also made in their aid. In 1819, a Select Vestry for managing the poor's affairs was appointed. Among the sixteen persons elected were—Revs. D. Jenkins and Thomas Laird; Messrs. John Radcliffe, Lepton Dobson, John Balme, Christian Hanneman, Wm. Ellwand, &c. Benj. Gaunt and John Varley were overseers for the same year. In 1789, a rate at 1s. in the pound, being the third rate levied that year, realised £173 18s. 3d. The amount raised by the poor-rate last year was £3360, the rate being 2s. in the pound. The present overseers are Messrs. Joseph Blackburn, S. A. Merritt, and E. Boocock. Mr. Joseph Newell has held the office of assistant-overseer since 1849.

The list of highway surveyors for Pudsey dates from the year 1770, when Matthew and John Hutchinson were the officials. Two surveyors continued to serve the township until the year 1815, when a Board was appointed, but it only lasted one year. In 1836 another Board, consisting of ten persons, was elected, with George Hepworth as assistant at a salary of £50; and in the succeeding year the number of members was increased to thirteen, with John Farrer as assistant at £50 per annum. This Board continued until 1872, the number of members varying from twelve to seventeen, William Walton holding the post of assistant-surveyor from the year 1843. John Baker, the present surveyor, was appointed in 1855.

The first churchwardens we have met with were William Banks and Samuel Hillas, who in 1709 held that office, and were succeeded by John Holdsworth and Richard Farrer. The lists, dating from 1745, frequently have appended to them the amount of the church-rate for the year, the rates varying from 2d. to 9d. and 1s. in the pound. About the year 1835 the ratepayers, who had allowed public affairs to be managed by a few individuals of ultra-Tory principles, began to assert their rights, and a determined stand was made against church-rates. Into the merits of this contention it is not the business of this history to enter, but the results may be recorded. In 1836 the Rev. David Jenkins was incumbent, and Messrs. John Farrer (Grove House) and William Beaumont, churchwardens, when the celebrated "smiting and brawling" case occurred, which resulted in William Clarkson and Jonas Proctor being cited before the Ecclesiastical Court at York, and sentenced—Mr. Clarkson to seven days' and Mr. Proctor to one month's imprisonment. They endured the penalty rather than acknowledge the justice of the charge brought against them. This event doubtless aggravated previous differences, and yearly contests took place in the election of churchwardens; the township was several times "polled," and the rate resisted. In 1845 a "poll" lasting nine days was taken as to the election of the people's warden, when Mr. John Baker, a Dissenter, was carried by a majority of forty-five over his opponent, Mr. John Parkinson. No rate has been allowed since the year 1853.

On April 5, 1861, the first proceedings towards the most exciting election of churchwardens of recent times took place, when Mr. William Elsworth was appointed vicar's warden, and Messrs. Benjamin Troughton and John Halliday were severally proposed for people's warden. The result of the first poll taken was as follows :—Halliday, 536; Troughton, 474. This led to a *mandamus* being issued from the Court of Queen's Bench, promoted by Mr. John Farrer, calling upon

the vicar (the Rev. H. J. Graham) to proceed to another election which was taken on June 27, when the numbers were—Halliday, 1282; Troughton, 1169. The result of this election decided the question in the negative as to whether the Old Chapel should be reopened for worship, an endowment having been promised for that purpose by Mr. John Farrer. The present churchwardens are Mr. George Armitage and Mr. William Maude.

In the great struggle for political supremacy between the two great aristocratic houses of Fitzwilliam (Whig) and Harewood (Tory) which culminated in the county election of 1807, Pudsey played a conspicuous part. During the fifteen days the polling lasted the greatest excitement prevailed throughout the district, the result being as follows:—Wilberforce, 11,806; Milton, 11,177; and Lascelles, 10,989. From the voting lists we find that 98 freeholders of Pudsey township voted for Milton, and 18 for each of the other two candidates. In 1826 Lord Milton honoured Pudsey by choosing from the village fifty special constables to form his bodyguard at the election for Yorkshire, and when he was chaired he was entirely surrounded by Pudsey men. Many of the staves are still preserved as heirlooms.

Great excitement also prevailed here during the first registration of voters under the new Reform Act of 1832, caused by the objections raised by the Tories against about ninety persons, chiefly the co-proprietors of scribbling and fulling mills. Sixty-three of these claims were allowed, and the victory was celebrated with unbounded rejoicings, during which the church bells were rung incessantly, and in the evening the steeple was brilliantly illuminated.

In 1710, the "Intakes" were enclosed by consent of John Milner, Esq., Walter Calverley, Esq., and the freeholders of Pudsey, the proceeds going towards the augmentation of the living attached to the old Chapel-of-ease. Tyersal Common was taken in about the year 1758. An Act for enclosing the common lands in the manor of Pudsey was passed in 1811. The common lands included about four hundred acres. Charles Milner, Esq., was lord of the manor, and as such was entitled to all the minerals under the waste lands; Thomas Thornhill, Thomas Plumbe, John Radcliffe, and Francis Maude, Esqrs., being owners of estates, and entitled to rights of common. The Award of the Commissioners is kept at Calverley Church. In 1874-5, Mr. Illingworth, the present lord of the manor, after some contention, successfully established his rights of royalties, &c., which extend over nearly one-sixth of the township. Waver Green, which had up to that time been considered township property—having been described in the enclosure award as a common watering-place for cattle—was also

claimed by Mr. Illingworth, and after some show of resistance by the Local Board, was given up to him. On Rickardshaw Common, which was taken in at the above time, races were formerly held, the starting and winning-post being at Primrose Hill. It is said that Jonas Althorne, landlord of the Sun Inn, levelled up a part of the common for this purpose. Races were held about 1730 at Upper Moor. Bull-baitings formerly took place on the open ground called the "Green," which is now bounded by Greenside, Greenbottom, and Greentop; but after the moor was enclosed, in 1812, the "sport" took place in a croft at Fartown.

The inhabitants of Pudsey, like those of Calverley and Farsley, have long been engaged in the manufacture of woollen cloth, and among their ranks were many of that class of yeomen whose numbers have become so thinned that, as a class, they may be said to have passed out of existence. If not owners the old clothiers were generally occupiers of small farms, by the cultivation of which they varied their employment at the hand-loom or spindle. Industrious and frugal in their habits, they were generally accounted men of integrity and honour, and in their double capacity of tradesmen and farmers possessed advantages which might well be envied by the present generation. Passing by the period when the various processes were all done by hand, we shall endeavour to give as complete a record as possible of the earlier machines which were introduced into this immediate district. Scribblers, carders, and billeys gradually made their appearance during the latter half of last century, but were looked upon with great disfavour. Indeed, on some occasions sheets of cardings and slubbings were met on the road and torn to pieces, their contents being scattered in all directions! The new machines were worked by horse power, the horse turning a "gin" similar to that used at stone quarries before the advent of the steam crane. There were seven of these "gins" about Pudsey, viz. :—Ingham's, at Hill Foot; Bickerdyke's, at Greenside; Craven's, at Bankhouse; Lumby's, at Littlemoor; Edward Farrer's, in Church Lane; Matthew Dufton's, top of Lowtown; and Matt. Whitfield's, at Delf Hill. The cloth to be fulled or milled was taken to the water mills at Cockersdale, Esholt, Arthington, or Harewood, and some amusing stories are told of the inexperience and mismanagement of the workmen engaged in this department. On one occasion a clothier's man was sent with a piece of cloth to "mill," and after putting the cloth into the machine, both miller and man adjourned for a "booze." Returning after a time to look at the cloth they found it so strangely felted together in one mass that it could not be opened out, and it was eventually buried in the

dung-heap ! The process of dyeing was also carried on in a similar rude fashion, and the "lead-broth," or dye-water, was suffered to run along the roads, often converting them into filthy sewers. In 1824 a severe panic existed in the woollen trade, and there was scarcely a cloth-loom to be heard in the village. To keep them from starving, many of the people were employed in weaving cotton by hand-loom, obtaining their work from a Mr. Nutter or Nuttall, of Bradford, whither they took their pieces on Thursdays. Mr. Joseph Tordoff, of Low Moor, also put out cotton weaving at Pudsey.

The first woollen mill in Pudsey turned by steam power was commenced towards the close of last century, at the bottom of Roker Lane, by Mr. Ellwand. The mill is known as Union Bridge Mill. It has since been purchased by the late Mr. J. Crowther, and is worked by Mr. Benjamin Crowther. The next and most important was Gibraltar Mill, erected in 1801-2 by Messrs. Joseph Thackrah and Fairfax Carlisle. This mill was burnt down on June 14, 1812, and there being no other mill in the neighbourhood the loss was considerable, both to owners and workpeople, as well as to the clothmakers. The mill was rebuilt by Mr. Thackrah on the best principles, and completed with all the newest improvements. Gas was introduced into this mill very early, being the first lit in the neighbourhood. Mr. Thackrah having built a large factory on the higher ground adjoining, became a great contractor for army goods, and for many years employed a great number of workpeople ; the goods made by him being completed in all the various branches upon the premises and exported to all parts of the world. Mr. Thackrah died in 1828. The premises were then let to Messrs. Hall & Walton, and in 1836 were purchased by Messrs. William Walton & Co. They are now occupied by Mr. D. Womersley and others. The mill has been thrice enlarged.

Varley's old mill at Stanningley was erected in 1816, and the new one in 1837, the firm being composed until recently of Messrs. William and Samuel Varley. This firm have frequently 1000 workpeople in their employ. Their trade is now exclusively in worsted goods. The Smalewell Mill was commenced about 1821, and rebuilt in 1844-5. It became the property of Messrs. William and Jonathan Clarkson in 1854, and has recently been purchased by Mr. James Hargreaves, the present occupier. Albion Mill was erected in 1822, and has since been enlarged. The name of the firm is Messrs. Beaumont, Harrison, and Co. Waterloo Mill, erected in 1825, received an addition in 1852, and since then a new mill has been added, the first stone of which was laid in July, 1857, by Mr. Jonas Bateman and Mr. William Carr, two of the senior partners of the firm. The company trade under the name of

James Blackburn & Co. The following names of mills, with the dates of their erection, complete the list:—Union Mill (Rider, Dean, Carr, and Co.), erected in 1825, and enlarged in 1855. Alanbrig Mill (Huggan, Horn, Harrison, & Co.), erected 1830; enlarged since. Crawshaw Mill (Thomas Waterhouse & Co.), erected 1831, enlarged 1857; now partly worsted. Priestley Mill (William Elsworth & Co.), erected 1834, since enlarged. Fartown Mill (Claughton Garth Mill Co.), erected 1837, enlarged 1860. Cliff Mill (Farrer, Sharp, & Co.), erected 1837, since enlarged. Bankhouse Mill (worsted); Messrs. Harris and their under-tenants. With the exception of Bankhouse Mill and Messrs. Varley's mill at Stanningley, all the above are woollen mills, built by companies on the joint-stock principle. Messrs. B. Crosland and Son, of Valley Bottom, and Messrs. W. & T. Huggan, of Swinnow Grange, are Pudsey firms, but their works are not within the township.

It is only within the last ten years that the worsted business has become fairly established at Pudsey. In 1867 Messrs. Cooper Brothers erected Valley Mill, and since that time their works have been doubled in extent. Brick Mill (woollen), Mr. Robert Spencer's, was erected in 1868; Brunswick Shed (worsted), Messrs. James Smith and Co.'s, erected in 1869; Prospect Mill (worsted), Messrs. Craven, Halliday, & Co.'s, erected in 1870, and since enlarged; Grangefield Mill, Mr. Isaac Gaunt's (worsted), erected in 1871; and a new portion has just been added for the woollen trade. New Shed, Pudsey Worsted Mill Co., Limited, erected in 1872, is now being doubled in size to hold 840 looms. It is at present occupied by Messrs. Midgley and Mills, Messrs. James Smith & Co., Messrs. Turton & Mitchell, and Mr. Thomas Jowett. Messrs. G. A. Jones & Co., woolcombers, worsted spinners, and manufacturers, commenced extensive works named South Park Mills in 1874, enlargements of which are still in progress. To the above list must also be added New Lane Mills, Tyersal, erected in 1873 by Messrs. W. & J. Whitehead, worsted spinners and manufacturers; Wellington Works, erected by Messrs. Pickard & Son, and occupied by Mr. Joseph Jowett, manufacturer; and Mr. P. Harrop's woolcombing shed.

Owing to the peculiar nature of the employment, we have not been able to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion as to the number of persons now employed in the woollen trade in Pudsey; but including the whole township the number employed in that of worsted is about 3200. Adding to that number the increase which will probably take place when the works in progress are completed, a total is obtained of about 3600 persons whose material prosperity is bound up with that of the Bradford trade. Since the introduction of the worsted trade, the

woollen business has been far out-distanced by its more vigorous rival ; all the manufactories, with one exception, erected since 1867 having been built for the worsted trade. The woollen hand-loom weavers' new law, fixing the working hours from seven to seven, came into operation in October, 1865, but few of the youth of either sex are now being brought up to the domestic hand-loom. Far more remunerative employment may now be had in the factories, as many power looms have recently been introduced in the woollen trade, in addition to the large number at work in the worsted factories.

There are still many small clothiers in and around Pudsey, and a few "wool extractors," dealers in "flocks," "mungo," and "waste,"—substances which are immediately connected with the trade. There are also several engineers and machinists' works.

The leather trade, both as regards tanning and currying, is assuming dimensions of no small importance, and a goodly number of hands find employment. The principal firms are as follow :—Messrs. Wm. Haste, Back Lane ; Thos. Goodall, Alma Tannery ; Vincent & Farrer, Lowtown ; and Edward Titley, Fartown. Not only is leather prepared from the raw hide, but it is finished and turned out as boots and shoes—and this on a large scale—in the town. We are all more or less acquainted with the slow processes of hand-shoemaking, from the "whack, whack" of the cobbler on his lapstone to the long-drawn-out "stitch, stitch" of the same artizan on the finished boot or shoe ; but at Lidget Hill Messrs. Scales & Salter have a factory where all the processes are carried out almost exclusively by the aid of steam and elaborate machinery. The firm have also large warerooms at Leeds, and employ in the aggregate about 800 workpeople.

Pudsey has long had a reputation for its stone. The Upper Moor quarries are supposed to be the oldest in the district, and were worked hundreds of years ago. It was from these quarries that the stone for erecting the buildings at Fulneck was obtained in 1746. Many years ago they were worked by a person named Stockdall, and afterwards by Thomas Farrer and his trustees, who exported the hard "nell" stone to foreign countries. About fourteen years ago Messrs. W. Pickard and Son entered upon and still work them. The other stone-quarrying firms of Pudsey are Messrs. William Merritt & Son, John Proctor and Son, George Lumby, J. Illingworth & Son, and W. H. Vickars. About Back Lane especially several of the quarries have been filled up, and many houses erected upon them. Mr. Enoch Hutton, having purchased a good breadth of land about here, has erected a good house, and is laying out the grounds for poultry breeding upon a comprehensive plan.

In very early times, as previously stated, the monks of Kirkstall obtained considerable possessions in Pudsey, and doubtless by their instrumentality the chapel of ease, called All Saints, situated at Chapeltown, was established as an outlying sanctuary dependent on the old Parish Church of Calverley. "Pudsey Chapel" is mentioned in "Harrison's Britaine," as existing in 1577. About 1610 the Rev. Elkanah Wales, M.A., whose long labours and subsequent persecution have left hallowed remembrances which the lapse of two centuries has not effaced, entered upon the ministry of Pudsey Chapel, after completing his studies at Trinity College, Cambridge. He was born at Idle, in 1588, and was the son of John Wales, of that place. To the poor chapelry of Pudsey he came, and laboured without secular advantage for fifty years, notwithstanding many pressing offers of richer cures. It is recorded of him that he was an excellent preacher, of profound judgment, and had an admirable art of pressing practical truths by force of illustration. He not only *preached* the Gospel, but *lived* according to its precepts.

Elkanah Wales lived in eventful times. During the year 1641 many public "fasts" were held in Pudsey Chapel, on account of national troubles. It was during one of these that an affrighted messenger from Bradford burst into the chapel with tidings that "the Irish rebels are coming!" and no wonder at the alarm which prevailed, for every day brought fresh intelligence of the merciless massacre of Protestants in Ireland by the Papists. In the following year, 1642, civil war broke out; and this neighbourhood soon became a part of the theatre of action. Almost before the eyes of the worthy pastor were enacted the battles of Adwalton and Wisket Hill; and at Upper Moor, within a quarter of a mile of his house, an outpost of the Parliamentary army engaged in the attack upon Leeds and Bradford was quartered. Before the enclosure of the moor in 1811 the entrenchments were observable, and many bullets were found when the ground was ploughed up. For the next twenty years Mr. Wales continued at Pudsey; but in 1662, the "Black Bartholomew Act" severed him from his beloved flock. Although silenced from preaching, he yet remained at the Parsonage adjoining the Old Chapel until driven away by the operation of the Five-Mile Act. In 1666, the myrmidons of a tyrannical Government cast the furniture of the old preacher out of doors, and compelled him to leave the village where he had so long laboured. After a short time he took up his abode at Leeds, where he preached privately. Having on a special occasion preached at Bramley Chapel, he was taken before the magistrates at Leeds, but escaped punishment on account of his years, he being then nearly

eighty years of age. He sometimes ventured into Pudsey, where Oliver Heywood met him in 1668, and a service was held, which passed off quietly, although it was known that there was a bailiff from Morley lurking about the village. Mr. Wales died in Leeds on the 10th May, 1669, and is interred in the chancel of St. John's Church in that town. His wife is supposed to be interred in the burial-ground of the Old Chapel, Pudsey, where there is a stone bearing the letters and date, "A. W., 1660, May 16."

In his will, Mr. Wales, besides numerous bequests to his own family, left benefactions to the poor of Pudsey, Idle, and Calverley. He also left two fields situate near the old Parsonage to Pudsey Chapel, and the rents therefrom now contribute to the clergyman's stipend. Thoresby commends the extraordinary management and economy by which, out of small means, he contrived to accomplish all this. It may safely be assumed that the strong measures adopted with reference to Elkanah Wales would cause many to repel a similar attack upon their own liberties. Hence among the lists of Yorkshire recusants from 1665 to 1670 we find the names of William Crabtree, Thomas Rainde, and William Pudsey, residents of Pudsey.

The origin of the Congregational Church at Pudsey is clearly traceable to the memorable year of 1662, and in this respect it can take rank among the oldest of the Protestant Nonconformist churches of the West Riding. The loss of Mr. Wales's services was in a measure made up by the preaching of his "son in the Gospel," the Rev. James Sale (or Sayle), a native of Pudsey, who was also one of the ejected ministers, and who, on coming to live on his own estate, opened his house for worship, besides frequently preaching at Idle. It is said that he was enabled to do this through the "leniency of the Vicar of Calverley." Mr. Sale was one of the four ministers who preached at Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds, built in 1672—one of the first chapels erected after the royal "Indulgence." He is spoken of as "a man of fine parts, and a good preacher." He died in 1678, and was buried at Calverley Church, the Rev. Oliver Heywood attending his funeral. It is supposed that Mr. Sale's house was situate at Greentop, where it may still be seen, little altered in appearance. From among some heraldic designs in stucco which Mr. Rayner copied is the inscription, "I.B.S., 1651," probably the initials of James and Beatrix Sale. The immediate neighbourhood is called Hall Royd. A tradition attached to this house is that some Old Shann lived and died in it, and was so enamoured of his old habitat that he "cam' ageean." There is ample testimony as to the tradition, but for several reasons we must take exception to the fact.

It was to the occasional visits of such men as Heywood that the Dissenting element of Pudsey looked for succour after the death of Mr. Sale, and accordingly frequent mention is made of the place in his diary. At the quarter sessions held at Leeds in July, 1690, "the barn, late William Lepton's, of Pudsey, was registered for preaching, on application signed by Richard Hutton, Abraham Hainsworth, John Rudde, and Richard Farrer." Also, at the quarter sessions held at Wakefield in October, 1694, "the house of Beatrix Sayll, widde, Pudsey, was registered on the application of Richard Hutton." The barn, or meeting-house above-mentioned, was situated where the Independent Methodist Chapel, Lowtown, now stands. Certain it is that Heywood preached there in 1695, and, alluding to the large barn doors, remarked, "Friends, you have a pair of brave church doors." In 1708 John Pearson, Samuel Hinchliffe, Richard Turner, and Joseph Lepton bought a building called the Ox-barn, which is situated at the top of Chapeltown, to be pulled down, and a place erected for and used as "a place of religious worship for Protestant Dissenters from the Established Church of England, whether they be of the Presbyterian or Congregational persuasion." By will dated November 6, 1715, Joseph Lepton bequeathed the rent of a close of four acres and three roods, called Dickroyd, out of which, after deducting £3 a-year for a Dissenting minister settled in Pudsey, the residue was to go to such of the poor as did not receive parish pay. In 1722 ground was purchased adjoining the Ox-barn for a stable with chamber over. This was for the use of those who came on horseback from a distance.

Among the earlier preachers were the Rev. John Ray, who died in 1699, and in 1708 mention is made of the death of the Rev. Richard Hutton. His son Richard married a daughter of the Rev. Richard Thorp, minister of Hopton, a man of property. By her will, dated 1720, she made bequests to seven poor Dissenting meeting-houses—viz., Idle, Heckmondwike, Topcliffe, Cleckheaton, Kipping, Eastwood, and Bingley. In the year 1715, amongst those who were liable to take the oath of allegiance to His Majesty George I., in his fear of the Pretender and the Jacobites, was "Elcana Berry, Dissenting minister of Pudsey," who was probably officiating at that period. About the year 1727 the Rev. John Wainman became minister, and held the charge for above forty-two years, until his death in June, 1770. He was the son of the Rev. Thomas Wainman, of Bingley, at which place he frequently preached. Such was the poverty of the congregation about this period that the quarterly stipend of the minister, received from them, only amounted to about £5. The Rev. Michael Maurice succeeded in October, 1770, and died in 1773. He was followed early

in the next year by the Rev. Arthur Lloyd, who remained until 1790. To him succeeded the Rev. Thomas Laird, of Keighley, whose exemplary life and labours did much to advance the Congregational interest in Pudsey, which previous to that time had been Presbyterian. Mr. Laird was a disinterested pastor, as shown by his freeing the poor congregation from their engagement to give him a fixed salary, he relying solely upon the receipts from the pew rents. This self-sacrifice, however, necessitated the worthy man's engaging in a secular business, which, as not unfrequently happens in similar cases, resulted in failure. Mr. Laird died in 1831, after a ministry at Pudsey of nearly forty years. In 1792, the first year of his settlement, ground was purchased for a new chapel on the site of the present edifice, which was opened in 1794. The price paid for the 2102 yards of ground was £131 7s. 6d., or 1s. 3d. per yard. The ground for the present graveyard was added at the same time. The Rev. William Colefax, of Hexham, entered upon the pastorate in 1832, and continued minister fifteen years, during which period the chapel was cleared of debt. An addition to the burial-ground was made in 1846. The subsequent ministers have been the Rev. Thomas Jowett (1848), John Marsden, B.A. (1855), and T. W. Tozer (1862). The present minister, the Rev. J. Atkinson, formerly of Clitheroe, commenced his ministry in 1864.

The first Sunday school was commenced by Mr. Laird about 1809, but the numbers attending were small. In 1835 a school-room was built, and the present one was erected in 1850. A day school has been taught since 1853.

The present Congregational Chapel was opened on July 4, 1866. It is built on the site of the old chapel, and is well situated at the junction of three roads—a position admirably adapted to bring out its elegant outline. The building is in the Early Decorated style which prevailed in the 13th century, and as an example of this style of architecture it holds a foremost position among the public buildings in this neighbourhood. The general plan comprises nave, aisles, and transept. Above the central doorway there is a beautiful St. Catherine window, and to the right and left there are two lancet windows. Near the front entrance a spire rises to the height of 105 ft., which for beauty and symmetry will compare with any in Yorkshire. The building was erected from designs by Messrs. Pritchett, of Darlington, and in its completed form cost about £3000. The chapel possesses a fine organ, erected by Messrs. Brindley & Foster, Sheffield. The cost of the instrument, £325, was raised solely by the ladies of the congregation.

We know not whether the Old Chapel continued open for worship after the withdrawal of Elkanah Wales in 1662, but if so the number of Conformists would be very small. Neither are any records available showing the alteration of the old structure to its present form, the windows and doorway of which appear to be little more than a century old. The first incumbent that we meet with after the disturbed times was the Rev. William Brown, B.A., who held the charge from 1728 to 1737. Then followed the Revs. Benjamin Bayley, B.A., from 1737 to 1762; Seth Pollard, M.A., from 1762 to 1767; Wm. Howarth, from 1767 to 1814; David Jenkins, from 1814 to 1854; since which latter year the Rev. Henry John Graham, M.A., has held the living. The nominations are made by the Vicar of Calverley. It will thus be seen that the Rev. Wm. Howarth officiated at Pudsey for forty-seven years, and the Rev. David Jenkins for above forty.

The Old Chapel being both small and inconvenient, steps were taken during the incumbency of the Rev. D. Jenkins towards the erection of St. Lawrence's Church, the first stone of which was laid in July, 1821, and it was opened in 1824. The new church is one of the most substantial and commodious of our local churches, and by reason of its position is also one of the most conspicuous objects in the surrounding country. It was built by Government at a cost of £13,362, the style of architecture being what is termed Carpenter's Gothic, the designs for which were furnished by Mr. Taylor, of Leeds. It consists of nave, north and south aisles, with lofty embattled tower at the west end. It also contains a fine organ, erected in 1873, built by Messrs. Brindley & Foster, at a cost of £1300; and last year the church was further beautified by the erection of a handsome reredos in Caen stone. The east window is a beautiful object, erected in memory of the Rev. D. Jenkins, John Farrer, Esq., and members of several other families. The church was originally provided with accommodation for 2000 sittings, 750 of which were free, but subsequent alterations have reduced the number of sittings to 1800. The whole of the sittings are free and unappropriated. The present value of the living is £300. There is a burial-ground attached of about two acres, and a substantial parsonage-house, built in 1832, in lieu of the old one. The peal of eight bells was opened in May, 1824.

Some years ago Mr. John Farrer, of Grove House, offered to restore the Old Chapel and provide an endowment from funds left in his hands by the daughters of Mr. Howarth, the incumbent, but the project was abandoned, owing to the opposition of the parishioners (supported by the Vicar of Calverley and the Bishop of the Diocese), and the old edifice now stands deserted and apparently uncared for.

The adjoining burial-ground contains the remains of many old townsmen of Pudsey of all creeds. Conspicuous among the familiar names that may be read on half-hidden tombstones are those of Moss, Pearson, Farrer, Hutchinson, Boyes, Sugden, Rider, Cooper, Ingham, Binks, &c. The Revs. Benjamin Bayley, John Wainman, and Michael Maurice—Conformists and Nonconformists—also rest here. It is satisfactory to record that the Local Board are about to take in hand this sorely neglected spot, which for years has been a receptacle for such broken pots and useless lumber as would not be tolerated in an ash-midden. The Old Chapel is to be removed; the walling round the burial-ground is to be substituted by a neat palisading, and the enclosure is to be planted with trees.

A Church Institute was established in 1859 for the advancement of the principles of the Church of England, which has 140 members.

The Methodists of Pudsey are by far the most numerous body in the town, having within the last seventy years erected no fewer than eleven chapels in Pudsey alone. The history of the denomination dates from 1744, when John Nelson first visited the place, and being prohibited from preaching, sat on horseback and "exhorted" the people as he rode along. John Wesley also preached at Pudsey in 1747, 1774 and 1780. One of the first individuals in the village to receive the travelling preachers was Wm. Boyes, of Jumble's Well. In 1748 the Pudsey Society was connected with the Birstal Circuit, and in 1769 was transferred to that formed at Bradford. In 1773 a preaching-house was opened opposite the old Manor-house at Lowtown, the trustees being Geo. Beecroft, Edward Tindall, Joseph Brown, Samuel Fenton and John Schofield. The inscription—"Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound,"—still remains upon the outer wall. In 1781 the society numbered 149 members, the leaders then being John Turner, of Farsley; Joseph Fenton, Edward Tindall, Joseph Brown, and James Ackroyd. Joseph Fenton is said to have been a most useful man, a good preacher and a great favourite with John Wesley. In 1784 Joseph Sutcliffe, a working man of Pudsey, commenced his career as a local preacher, and afterwards became an honoured minister, which office he held for the long term of seventy years. He was the author of several valuable works, including a "Commentary on the Holy Scriptures." He died in May, 1856, aged ninety-four years. In 1811 Bramley was made the head of a circuit, and Pudsey was transferred to it. In May, 1816, was opened the Wesleyan Chapel, Lowtown, about which much contention arose during the eventful years following the Reform movement. Owing to the peculiar nature of the trust-deed, the Conference party, finding

themselves unable to hold the building, erected their present chapel in 1862. This chapel is a handsome structure, and was erected at a cost of about £2000. Meanwhile, the Lowtown chapel having been beautified and a new organ added, together costing £700, was opened in 1861, under the name of the Independent Methodist Chapel. It is now in connection with the United Methodist Free Church.

The Methodist New Connexion in Pudsey had its origin about the year 1818, when open-air services were held in Fartown, and were continued in a room called Lobley's Chamber, near the Fleece Inn. In 1825 Zion Chapel was built at a cost of £450. In 1840, land for a new chapel and burial-ground was purchased, but about that time the celebrated "Barkerite" agitation arose, and broke up the society. In 1843, however, about forty of the members, headed by the late Mr. Wm. Boyes and Mr. John Shaw, returned to the Connexion. In 1853 a Sunday school was built, and in 1873 the present chapel was opened, having cost about £2100.

The Baptist Chapel, Rickardshaw Lane, was erected in 1827, and the chapel at Littlemoor in 1851. St. Paul's Church, Rickardshaw Lane, dates from the year 1856, since which time the Rev. G. Marshall, B.A., has been incumbent. The district was formed under the Peel Act of 1846. The opening of the Unitarian Chapel, Church Lane, took place in November, 1861. The cost of the building, exclusive of the land, which was purchased by a few working-men of Pudsey, was £1000. The style of architecture is Decorated Gothic. The Rev. J. Bevan is the present minister. The chapel of the Moravians at Fulneck, which dates from 1746, four years after the Brethren settled at that remote part of the township, will be treated of in a subsequent paper.

Among other places of worship in Pudsey is the Wesleyan Chapel, Littlemoor, which was opened in September, 1869, after being twice blown down; cost, £1800. A preaching-room was opened here in 1823. Ebenezer Primitive Methodist Chapel, Rickardshaw Lane, was erected in 1835, and replaced by a larger one in 1864. The Primitive Methodist Chapel, Lowtown, was built in 1839, at a cost of about £1000, £800 of which was borrowed on mortgage. The entire debt was cleared off by the year 1875, at which period it was found that the congregation had paid £835 in interest alone. The Wesleyan Association (now called Free Church) preaching-room was opened in 1849, at Lowtown. Bethel Chapel, opened in October, 1873, costing £1500. Gibraltar Wesleyan Chapel, erected 1840 (since disused). Reform preaching-room, Waterloo, commenced 1854; chapel opened

February, 1870; now Free Church. Primitive Methodist School-chapel, Roker Lane, erected 1875; cost about £1500.

The first Sunday school in the township was established by the Moravians of Fulneck in 1801, the teachers being paid for their labours at the rate of 1s. per day. The first school commenced on the voluntary principle was established at Fartown in 1807, by William Boyes. Another was shortly after begun in Lowtown by the Wesleyan Methodists. Next followed that established by the Independents in 1809. Since then the area of operations has been greatly extended, and now there are twenty schools containing about 3700 scholars.

On an estimate made some time ago it was found that there was one in $3\frac{1}{4}$ of the population receiving instruction in the Sunday schools of Pudsey, against one in $7\frac{1}{2}$ under similar instruction throughout England. Connected with many of the Sunday schools are "sick and funeral briefs," or clubs, from which the paying members receive allowances in times of trouble.

In December, 1874, the School Board for Pudsey was elected without a contest, their jurisdiction extending over the whole township. The members of this new educational body are Mr. George Hinings (chairman), and Messrs. Robert Dalby, James G. Mills, William Maude, S. Wade, James Banks, and James Brook. A school is now in course of erection by the Board at Rickardshaw Lane for 600 scholars, and another at Laisterdyke for the accommodation of 400 children; while one at Littlemoor for 300 children is contemplated. The old town's school at Littlemoor was erected probably about the beginning of the century. Over the door there is an inscription stating that "This school was repaired by the town in the year of our Lord, 1814. W. Stowe, W. Greaves, overseers; G. Beaumont, J. Drake, chapel-wardens."

The Pudsey Mechanics' Institute has had about a thirty years' existence, during which time it has done good work in the town. The idea of a "Mechanics' Institute" originated with a few young men, whose enterprise resulted in their taking a house at Greenside, where they read penny numbers of "Shakspeare" and other papers. Becoming enlarged in their ideas, however, they removed to another room in Church Lane, and essayed an appeal to the public in a circular signed, "Joseph Walker, treasurer; J. S. Colefax, secretary." This appeal, like many similar ones, was addressed to an unsympathetic public, many of whom, entirely ignorant of the object, "thowt they'd mechanics and machines enuff, and sadly too monny." The little society, however, with about thirty members, and Mr. Henry Rayner as the first president, went on adding to its numbers, until in 1848 there

were 136 members, and ninety-six volumes in the library. In the year after they removed to more commodious premises in the same street. The present building in Lowtown was bought by them in July, 1871. As just stated, the number of members in 1847 was about thirty; in 1857 they had increased to 140, and in 1867 to 145. From last report it appears that the progress made during the previous six months had been greater than in any half-year before. The number of members was :—Honorary 32, ordinary 238, library 12; elementary classes, male 97, female 40; total 419, showing an increase of 195 members during the six months. The income for the half-year was £118 5s. 1d. The number of volumes in the library is 1050.

The number of friendly societies in Pudsey is more than ordinarily large, even for the district "round about Bradford," where such societies are in great favour. There are between thirty and forty lodges or clubs, having an aggregate membership of 2300. In addition to these, the amounts paid into the building societies of Leeds and Bradford represent a large sum.

Whilst the material and intellectual improvement of the population is thus advancing, their requirements in the way of recreation have not been lost sight of. The old St. Lawrence Cricket Club was established in 1845, and since that time it has, with the Britannia Club, done much to foster a love of the fine old English game of cricket. Many good players have gone from these clubs to other parts of the country.

The ceremony of cutting the first sod of the Pudsey Branch Railway took place on March 24, 1875, in a field near to Priestley Mills. Mr. John Butler turned the first turf; Joseph Elsworth and Joseph Emsley, two old inhabitants of Pudsey, also taking part. This short line was authorised by the Great Northern Act of 1871, and from its junction with that company's line near Stanningley is about two and a quarter miles long. The Leeds, Bradford, and Halifax Junction (now the Great Northern) line was opened on July 31, 1854.

On no subject have the component parts of Pudsey been so much exercised as on the serious question of a quiet resting-place for the dead, the township having been "polled" three times in regard to it. In February, 1870, the first proceedings were taken at a vestry meeting, and a Burial Board appointed, who proposed as the site for a cemetery the present one in Back Lane. After being twice rejected, it was finally adopted at a poll in March, 1872, by twenty-six votes. The site was purchased of Messrs. Farrer, and comprises nearly twelve acres. The cemetery was consecrated in Whit-week, 1875. The two mortuary chapels, with lofty spire, form an imposing edifice, and may be seen at a great distance. Including land (£2100), the total

cost of the cemetery was about £10,000, for which the Burial Board have borrowing powers.

The Local Government Act was adopted for the township of Pudsey in December, 1871, and in June following the fifteen members constituting the Board were elected. Previous to that the highways had been looked after by a Highway Board of fifteen members, of which Mr. Samuel Varley was chairman. In July, 1868, a Lighting Board was formed, and soon after the streets, the darkness of which had been a reproach to the town, were lighted with gas. The members of the present Local Board are—Mr. W. D. Scales (chairman); Messrs. Benjamin Elsworth, George A. Jones, William Huggan, Thomas Goodall, Benjamin J. Walton, Samuel Crossland, Amos Ward, Robert Dalby, Andrew Hopkinson, William Popplewell, Henry D. Clough, Thomas Stead, James Hargreaves, and John Whitehead. The clerk to the Board and rate collector is Mr. George Porritt; medical officer, Mr. Jas. Farquhar, M.D.; surveyor, Mr. John Baker; nuisance inspector, Mr. Joseph Town. The amount raised last official year was, by highway rate, at 1s. 4d. in the pound, £2096; and by general district rate, at 6d. in the pound for Pudsey and 4d. for Tyersal, £820; total, £2916. The town possesses a steam fire-engine by Shand & Mason, of London, obtained in 1867, which is the property of various mill companies. The engine is manned by a brigade of which Mr. J. E. Hinings is captain.

The rateable value of the township of Pudsey, according to a new valuation made in May, 1807, was £4458,—£476 for Tyersal and £3982 for Pudsey. The rateable value is now about £35,500. The following figures, covering the same period, show the progressive increase of the population:—In 1801, the population was given at 4422; in 1821, 6229; in 1841, 10,002; in 1861, 12,914; in 1871, 13,976; while the present estimated population is 14,500. There are about seventy places in the country, returning about ninety members to Parliament, which have a less population than Pudsey, many of them not having one-half the rateable value. The death-rate for the past thirty-eight years will represent an average of about 25·0 per thousand of the population.

The Gas Works at Crimbles were established in 1845, the first subscribed capital being £16,000. By an amended Act obtained in 1856 the capital was raised to £58,000. Extensive additions to the plant have since been made. The public streets were first lighted with gas in 1868, by a Board elected under the Lighting Act.

The Calverley District Waterworks Company, Limited, whose district embraces Pudsey, Stanningley, Farsley, Calverley, and Idle,

was commenced in 1865, the share capital being £20,000, in 4000 shares of £5 each. According to the last report, a dividend equal to $8\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. was declared, leaving a substantial balance to be carried forward.

The Public Hall, Pudsey, was opened in May, 1853. This commodious although badly situated assembly room has been the scene of many a tough wordy encounter since its erection. The "British Workman," or "public-house without the drink," was opened in October, 1871. It is under the management of a committee, and occupies the Old Manor House.

Pudsey Feast, which is a great institution and is widely known, is held on the first Sunday after the 21st of August.

Pudsey has its local newspaper, the *Pudsey and Stanningley News*, established in 1872 by Mr. Thomas Stillings.

Coming within the category of those eminent in a more than local sense in "arts, and arms, and song," may be mentioned John Carr, a native of Pudsey, who rose from the ranks to be adjutant of the 2nd Life Guards; was personally complimented by the King; and afterwards received a magnificent sword of honour. John and Samuel Ryley were both eminent mathematicians. John, who was born at Allcotes, in 1747, although receiving no better education than the village school afforded, first qualified himself for the post of mathematical teacher at the Drighlington Grammar School (founded by Archbishop Margetson), and afterwards received the appointment of head-master at Leeds Charity School. He wrote a History of Leeds, and for fifty years contributed to many of the scientific journals of the day. He died at Leeds in 1815. Samuel Ryley was born in 1783, resided at Marsh, and was also one of the most eminent mathematicians this district ever produced. He was the nephew of John Ryley named above, from whom he received valuable aid. From his boyhood, however, he took the greatest interest in mathematical studies; and Scatcherd, whose description was probably overdrawn, relates how astonished he was while lounging in a bookseller's shop in Leeds, to hear a "countryman, with clogs, corduroys, vulgar striped waistcoat, threadbare blue coat, and a hat worse than a bricklayer's labourer," inquiring for a second-hand copy of the "Infinitesimal Calculus!" Samuel Ryley died in 1847, and is interred at Pudsey Church.

At Radcliffe House lived Richard Hey, a drysalter, frequently styled "honest Mr. Hey." His family were all distinguished for ability, and four of his sons rose to positions of eminence. Mr. Hey was a zealous Churchman, and contributed liberally towards the endowment of the Old Chapel. He died in 1766. Of his eminent

sons, John Hey, D.D., was born in 1734, and before he was twenty-one years of age, had taken his B.A. degree at Cambridge. He was First Norrisian Professor of Divinity from 1760 to 1795; rector of Passingham and Calverton; and one of the Whitehall preachers. His "Lectures on Divinity" passed through three editions. He died in 1815, aged eighty years. His brother, William Hey, Esq., F.R.S., was an eminent surgeon, and one of the founders of the Leeds Infirmary, of which he was thirty-nine years senior surgeon. He was also twice mayor of Leeds, viz., in 1787 and 1802. He died in 1819, aged eighty-two, an event which was deeply lamented in the borough of Leeds, where a marble statue, by Chantrey, has been erected to perpetuate his memory. Dr. Hey enjoyed the acquaintance and profited by the knowledge of the eminent chemist, Dr. Priestley. Samuel Hey, M.A., another brother, was a tutor of Magdalen College, Cambridge, and afterwards vicar of Steeple-Ashton, in Wiltshire. Although far removed from his native place, he did not forget the poor belonging to it, and left an annuity to the Leeds Infirmary, on condition that the clergyman of Pudsey should for ever have a right to recommend patients. The youngest son of the Pudsey drysalter was named Richard, born in 1745. He, too, was educated at Cambridge, and was B.A. and third wrangler when twenty-two years of age. He was afterwards called to the bar, and took the degree of LL.D. He also wrote on various subjects. His death occurred in December, 1835, at the advanced age of ninety-one years.

Lepton Dobson, Esq., of Grove House, Pudsey, occupied with distinguished honour the position of mayor of Leeds in 1821. He laid the first stone of the Central Market, and also of the Commercial Buildings, Leeds. Grove House was afterwards occupied by John Farrer, Esq., J.P., a gentleman who until his death in 1867 occupied a prominent position in the district. The name of Farrer occurs perhaps more prominently than any other in Pudsey records of the past two hundred years. The Rev. W. Lee Howarth, J.P., now resides at Grove House.

On the pleasant slope of the hill, looking towards Tong, there is a substantial residence with the inscription "C. N. 1761." The house is called Nesbit Hall, and the initials refer to one Claude Nesbit, who in the above year rebuilt the place. The title deeds show that in 1747 the property belonged to John Darnborough, who sold it to Nesbit, and in whose family it remained until 1810, when John Clayton became the purchaser. The house and land were again in the market three years ago, when Mr. John Rider purchased them, and has since much improved the hall and its surroundings.

Threapland House, which overlooks the Fulneck valley, is the residence of Mr. J. T. Beer, F.R.S.L., a gentleman whose poetical effusions, and especially his astronomic and scientific writings, have already earned him a more than local reputation.

Scattered over the township there are abundant dwellings of less pretensions than those last named, wherein dwelt the substantial clothier families once so numerous in Pudsey. Without attempting to exhaust the list we might associate with them the names of Wade, Sugden, Ingham, Binks, Rider, Beaumont, Crowther, Blackburn, Hinchliffe, Lumby, Boyes, Moss, Halliday, Carr, Spencer, Banks, Huggan, Armitage, Womersley, &c. If we could pursue the subject, the history of many of these families would furnish materials of interest; whilst by singling out individual members, character-portraits might be drawn strikingly illustrative of various phases of Pudsey life and manners. Almost without exception the old master clothiers were plain in speech, plain in dress, and were content with the plainest of food—if there was only plenty of it. They were content with a moderate competence, and, having acquired it, left the business for others to “tew wi’.”

Unconnected with the cloth trade there were other families of note, but the mention of one must suffice. In the burial-ground at the Independent Chapel there is a gravestone recording the death of Hugh Hinings, who died in 1805. The elder brother of Hugh was agent to the Earl of Galloway, and on one occasion Hugh was sent by him to London to negotiate the sale of a large herd of cattle from the Earl's Scotch estate. On the arrival of Hugh and his drovers at Harewood, he became so enamoured of a “Yorkshire lass” there, that on returning from London he sent on the money and remained at Harewood, where he married, and took a farm in the neighbourhood. He afterwards came to Pudsey, where he was veterinary surgeon, farmer, and innkeeper for some years. He was the father of the late Wm. Hinings, most of whose sons have been very successful men of business.

Among the “old inhabitants” of Pudsey the name of James Thornton stands conspicuous as being the only centenarian. He died in 1696, aged 102. The following had all attained over ninety years, and were living during the present century:—1805, Joseph Holliday, aged ninety-one; 1810, Aaron Ackroyd, ninety-two; 1814, Edward Hinchliffe, ninety-one; 1816, Susannah Hollingworth, ninety-five; 1831, Ellen Northrop, ninety-three; 1839, Susannah Holmes, ninety-two; 1840, Robert Bywater, ninety-one; 1841, Mrs. Farrer, Grove House, ninety-one, and Elizabeth Haste, ninety-one; 1843, Jeremiah

Watson, ninety-three (many years sexton at the Independent Chapel); 1844, Mary Walker, ninety; 1845, Samuel Ingham, ninety; 1857, Hannah Watson, ninety-three, and Hannah Barraclough, ninety-three; 1861, Ann Scholefield, ninety-three; 1874, Joseph Roberts, ninety-one; and 1875, Mrs. Banks, mother of Mr. James Banks, ninety-four. Mr. Joseph Webster, who up to his death on June 22nd, 1876, was probably the "oldest inhabitant" in the district, had attained the great age of ninety-four years and ten months, having been born at Morley in August, 1771. Mr. Webster was formerly a cloth manufacturer, and was connected with the Alanbrig Mills, Lowtown, becoming a partner when the company was first formed. He was interred at Fulneck, at which village he had lived for 32 years.

During the many years that England was engaged in the great war which ended in the battle of Waterloo, Pudsey contributed a fair contingent of those who fought and bled in upholding the honour of the country. George Loryman fought in nineteen engagements; James Gibson went through the Peninsular campaign; both of them were in the 7th Royal Fusiliers. Henry Wilcock was in the Militia from 1807 to 1812, when he joined the Grenadier Guards. William Varley was also in the Militia, until he joined the renowned 33rd Regiment of Foot, better known as the "Havercake lads." He served at the siege of Antwerp and at Waterloo. John Boocock and Joshua Wheater were also in the above regiment; one was killed, and the other died from the effects of wounds received at Bergen-ap-Zoom. W. Glover was a private in the 36th Regiment, and passed through the Peninsular War. The list of Pudsey men who were engaged in the Crimean campaign contains twenty names.

Referring to one or two outlying places of interest, we may notice Stanningley, which lies in three townships—Bramley, Pudsey, and Calverley-with-Farsley. Messrs. Butler's ironworks at Stanningley are somewhat extensive. In St. Thomas's Church there is a stained glass window, the gift of 750 subscribers, in memory of Thomas Hardaker and Emma Carrick, two teachers in the school, who were, while out walking in September, 1869, killed by a flash of lightning. The subject represented is the Good Shepherd.

At Troydale there is an old farmhouse, upon which is a double cross in stone, denoting that the site on which it stands formerly belonged to the Knights of Jerusalem, afterwards called the Knights of Malta. This Order had considerable possessions granted to them by pious admirers in the thirteenth century, and the lessees of their lands had many curious privileges accorded to them. Proof of wills was one of the prerogatives enjoyed by the Order, and this right was

exercised within their manors of Crosley, Bingley, and Pudsey so late as 1795. The wills are kept by Mr. Ferrand, at St. Ives, Bingley, whose family were inappropriate rectors. Over the beck is Farnley. Whitaker says that owing to the aristocratical genius of the place not less than 400 acres of wood had been permitted to remain up to 1816. The deep retirement of this wood gave occasion to an assembly known in the traditions of the country as the "Farnley Wood Plotters," their reputed object being to overturn the Government of Charles II. and substitute a "Christian magistracy." The leader was Captain Oates. Twenty-one of the deluded conspirators were executed in 1663-4.

Tyersal is a village or hamlet in the township of Pudsey, and adjoins the borough of Bradford. About Quarry Gap and Swaine Green there is a large and increasing population within the boundary of Pudsey, but their interests are altogether identified with the adjoining borough. As at present constituted, there is an absence of sympathy between the native-born Pudseyites and the people of Tyersal which may possibly tend to bring about a severance. From time immemorial an arrangement has existed by which Tyersal has had supervision over its own roads, and, although it is represented in the Local Board of Pudsey, a separate rate is laid for Tyersal. It is also a separate manor, and has had rights of common land independent of Pudsey. Tyersal Common was enclosed in 1758.

Connected with this hamlet, from about the year 1440 until 1792, were the family of Thornton, one of whom, Richard Thornton, was Recorder of Leeds, and died in 1710. Thoresby wrote of him as a "learned, ingenious, and pious man," and "heir-male of the ancient family of Thornton, of Thornton and Tyersal," whose noble collection of manuscripts had been of singular advantage to him in compiling his "History of Leeds." The Tyersal manor and estates were sold by auction in 1792, on the death of a later Richard Thornton, when Joshua Ingham, of Mirfield, Jonathan Walker, of Rotherham, and John Whitacre, of Woodhouse, became the purchasers for £24,750. The estate, comprising 636 acres, inclusive of about 73 acres of woodland, was by them divided into three equal portions, each being entitled to one-third of the mineral and manorial rights. The estate contained residences called Tyersal Hall, Quarry Gap, and Cutler Heights. The Tyersal Hall estate remained with the trustees of Miss Walker, of Masbro' House, daughter of Jonathan Walker, Esq., until 1857, when two of the farms were sold to John Plumbe Tempest, Esq. Another extensive portion was bought by Joseph Butler, Esq., from whose family it was recently purchased by Wm. Peel, Esq., of Ackworth

Park, Pontefract. Upon the last-named estate the Walker family erected a substantial residence, which was for many years tenanted by John Drake, and afterwards by Mr. Simons, a partner in the Bowling Ironworks. It is now occupied by Colonel Atchison. His son, Mr. D. G. Atchison, lives at the old Hall adjoining, which he has thoroughly and tastefully restored. Both it and Tyersal House are delightfully situated in Tyersal Lane. The Quarry Gap section of the Tyersal estate, bought by Joshua Ingham, passed to a Dr. Taylor (who died at the ivy-covered house near to Dick Lane, known as Thornton House), and upon his death it came to the Stables family, who still own what remains unsold. From its appearance, we suppose Thornton House to have been erected subsequently to Tyersal Hall, and probably by another member of the Thornton family, who was given to the pleasures of the chase. The extensive stabling and dog-kennels still remain. Until very recent times the neighbourhood abounded with game. At Thornton House, Joseph Hinchliff, father of the late Joseph Hinchliff, of Horton House Academy, for many years kept a boarding school. Samuel Hinchliff, brother to the latter, was a lieutenant of the cavalry staff corps, and greatly distinguished himself by his cool bravery shown on several occasions during the Peninsular War.

For the last thirty-eight years Mr. James Tetlow has resided at Thornton House, and farmed the adjoining land. During that period it has fallen to the lot of few men to witness such a metamorphosis going on all around. No less than three railways now cross his land, and have so carved it up that Thornton House itself only stands on sufferance, and may at any time be knocked down to the highest bidder as a "desirable lot of building materials." That portion of the Whitacre property which lay about Swaine Green and Cutler Heights has been much built upon. On one portion stand New Lane Mills (built by Messrs. W. & J. Whitehead), Messrs. Pickard's brick-works, &c. Out of the same property Mr. Richard Duckitt in 1843 bought a large estate called Wildgrove, and upon it he built a good house and extensive farm buildings. Mr. Duckitt was a native of Kettlewell, where he was born in 1801. Having in very early life to seek his own fortune, he commenced by taking small building contracts, and being successful, undertook much larger ones. Among other works, he was contractor for a portion of the Bradford Waterworks, and also had a large railway contract in India. During the last eight years of his life he resided at Wildgrove, where he died in January, 1876. His youngest daughter was married to Mr. J. Pepper, architect, who at present resides at Wildgrove.

In many respects the Moravian settlement of Fulneck is the most interesting hamlet in the township of Pudsey. It is a place noted not only throughout England, but venerated in many foreign and heathen lands. The ancient church of the Moravians, or United Brethren, originated in 1457, but, after being almost destroyed through persecution about 1627, its restoration may be dated from 1715, when a revival took place near Fulneck, in Moravia, and especially from 1722, when Count Zinzendorf, a native of Dresden, gave the Brethren refuge upon his estate near Bertholdsdorf. Here they established a colony, called Herrnhut, which has ever since been their principal station. In 1731 John Toeltschig, son of a magistrate in Moravia, was sent to Yorkshire, at the Rev. B. Ingham's special request, to aid him in the work of evangelisation. He was followed in 1741 by Peter Boehler, a very learned man among the Brethren. There were already many Moravians from Germany in London, and in 1742 a number of them accompanied Toeltschig into Yorkshire, taking up their abode at Smith House, Lightcliffe, the residence of a Mrs. Holmes, whose husband had visited the Brethren in London but died before their arrival in Yorkshire. This body of Christian workers included about fifteen preachers, and of these two were students at Oxford. By the next year, 1743, they had forty-seven meeting-houses or preaching stations. Being mostly foreigners, they were treated with jealousy, as Jesuits, enemies to the King, and leagued with the Pretender. Their dwellings were frequently searched by order of the magistrates, and some of them were committed to prison. Notwithstanding these persecutions, the Brethren increased, and set earnestly to work in building chapels, ministers' houses, and schools, for which they took out licences to save themselves from annoyance and persecution. Meanwhile the Rev. Benjamin Ingham and Brother Delamotte had gathered little congregations in various places in Yorkshire, which in the aggregate numbered about 1000 persons, and these Mr. Ingham formally and publicly placed under the care of the Moravian Church. Mr. Ingham was a clergyman of the Established Church, and one of the original band of Methodists at Oxford, and had been favourably impressed with Moravianism through his intercourse with the Brethren in the colony of Georgia, and afterwards in Germany. The community still called "Inghamites," which many years ago were a somewhat numerous body, take their name from him. John and Charles Wesley, who were active members of the Fetter Lane society, established by Peter Boehler, also for a time offered the Moravians much co-operation, but ultimately withdrew owing to differences in doctrine.

In spite of much opposition, the Brethren continued to increase, and it was determined to form an establishment in this district, not only as a centre for English Moravians, but for the temporary residence of missionaries from Germany. Accordingly, in March, 1743, Count Zinzendorf visited the Brethren at Smith House, and fixed upon a site near Pudsey as suitable. The land was purchased by the Rev. Benjamin Ingham for them in January, 1744, and during the following month several families removed to houses near. The name given to the new settlement was first "Lamb's Hill;" it then received the name "Grace Hall;" and about 1763 the name "Fulneck," from the little German town of that name, was given to it. Before the Brethren purchased the estate, however, it seems to have been called "Fallneck," as will be seen from the following extract from a letter written by Mr. W. Holland. He says—"The articles of agreement for the *Fallneck* estate were signed by Mr. Ingham and the owner last Wednesday." A Mr. Benham derives the word from *Fallen Ake*, the word *Ake* signifying in old times oak. Even yet it is spoken of by old residents of Pudsey as "Fallneck." At the time the land was purchased it was rough and uncultivated, and covered with briars and brambles. The intended settlement was to have its own civil as well as religious regulations; it was to be the centre of evangelical usefulness, a resting place for missionaries, a home for children of missionaries and labourers, a seminary, a refuge for single men and women, and a training institution for labourers. It was an institution whose foundations were truly laid in faith and hope; for on no other groundwork could the Brethren have contemplated the erection of chapels, ministers' houses, boarding houses, and schools, at a cost which at the lowest computation must have exceeded £15,000.

In May, 1746, the site was solemnly consecrated, and the foundation-stone laid, by the brethren Toeltschig, Ockerhausen, and Hauptman. Almost the whole of the following night was given to prayer. At ten o'clock the single brethren were on the spot; the solitude of the midnight hour was broken by Toeltschig's unsupported voice; and at four o'clock the single sisters took their station on the same spot, singing and praising God for his goodness and mercy. In December of the same year the building was covered in. In March, 1748, the portion designed for the residence of the labourers was finished and immediately occupied. The whole was completed in June, and was solemnly consecrated by Johannes de Watteville, assisted by Peter Boehler. The organ was erected in the same year, and was the work of Snetzler, the most eminent organ builder at the time in England. In 1802 the organ was transferred from the east

gallery to its present position, and in 1851 it was improved and enlarged, and is now one of the finest instruments in the locality. The pulpit was not erected till 1750, and the first person who occupied it was the gifted preacher, Benjamin La Trobe. Count Zinzendorf and his son Renatus visited Fulneck in 1749; and during their visit the foundation-stones of the two houses for the brethren and sisters were laid. They were completed and inhabited in 1752. In 1767, the sisters' house being full, a large house at Littlemoor, now owned by Mr. George Hinings, was rented for their accommodation. The burial-ground was consecrated in 1749, and was brought under public notice in 1750 by the reading therein of the Easter morning Litany. Strange accounts were reported, and a curiosity was raised in many to see and hear more of the Brethren. At the first funeral about 4000 persons congregated in the burial-ground to witness the ceremony; and on Easter Sunday morning, 1753, several thousand persons were gathered together, and were addressed by Benjamin La Trobe. Large crowds gathered regularly every Easter Sunday morning in the burial-ground to hear the Easter morning Litany read, till this at length became so inconvenient that the custom was given up and the Litany was read within the walls of the chapel. From 1750 to 1753 the terrace and the gardens were laid out, but afterwards were greatly improved.

The boys' boarding schools belonging to the Brethren were in 1743 at Broad Oaks, Essex, but the boys were afterwards removed, first to Buttermere in Wiltshire, next to Smith House, and finally in 1753 to Fulneck, where they occupied the rooms under the chapel. The increase of applications, however, for the admission of children of parents not connected with the church soon rendered an additional building requisite, and the boys' school was built in 1784-5. Further additions were made in 1818. The girls' school was brought from Chelsea to Fulneck in 1755. The excellent education which has always been given in these schools is proverbial; through their connection with the German congregations the Moravians have always been able to secure teachers of much higher ability than was at one time usual in the majority of private schools in England. From the year 1755 there have also been day schools at Fulneck, and through them have passed many of the youths of the surrounding neighbourhood, some of whom yet retain a lively recollection of "Daddy Collins," one of the old masters. In 1800 Sunday schools were established by the Rev. John Hartley. A theological seminary was also opened at Fulneck, which existed until 1827, when it was given up, but resumed again a few years ago. Within the past few months, however, the

institution has been removed to Fairfield, near Manchester, in order that the students may have the educational advantages offered at Owens College.

During the erection of the buildings at Fulneck the place was visited by the Rev. John Wesley, who, speaking of the site, says in his diary, "It is on the side of a hill, commanding all the vale beneath, and the opposite hill. The front is exceedingly grand, though plain, being faced with fine smooth white stone. The Germans suppose it will cost by the time it is finished about three thousand pounds. It is well if it be not nearer ten. But it is no concern of the English Brethren. They are told (and potently believe) that 'All the money will come from beyond the sea!'" Although there was some tinge of irony in this remark, it is nevertheless true that a substantial interest was felt in the undertaking by brethren and sisters "beyond the sea." The German branch of the Moravian Church did contribute, and their friends in Norway sent a cargo of timber for use in the contemplated chapel. The architects of the buildings, it is thought, were Edward Graves and his brother, of Newark.

In the year 1755 Fulneck and the older congregations, Gomersal, Wyke, Mirfield, and Pudsey, were "settled," receiving the constitution and privileges of congregations of the Brethren's Unity. Fulneck was to be the chief station, upon which all the others should depend. Brother Traneker was to be the Ordinary (or Bishop) of Fulneck and of the whole. Since the year 1811 the congregation in Pudsey has been united with Fulneck. During the existence of the Pudsey congregation (which included also Dudley Hill, Baildon, Great Horton, and Holbeck), the numbers averaged 660 the first ten years. During the same period the Fulneck congregation averaged 359, and was about 400 at the time of union. Some idea of the poverty of the Brethren may be formed when it is stated that the married couple who ministered to the Pudsey congregation were expected to maintain themselves on eight shillings a-week; and thirty years later the chief pastor at Fulneck was in receipt of only twelve shillings weekly!

In order to afford employment for the brethren and sisters living at Fulneck, "diaconies," or establishments for carrying on different trades, were commenced. The brethren's house began the clothing business in the year 1748, and subsequently a worsted and glove manufactory, a farm, and a tailor's and a shoemaker's business. A bakery and an inn were also established. The latter building is still occupied as a house of refreshment. In the sisters' house were located different branches of the needlework and hosiery trades. Some of these businesses were carried on until 1837, when, excepting needle-

work, they were finally abandoned. Although feasible in conception, these diaconies were scarcely practicable in their working. Many of the early converts, attracted by the novelty of the doctrines taught by the Brethren, and their semi-monastic mode of life, soon found the regulations too rigorous and austere, and went elsewhere in quest of those advantages they had vainly hoped to find at Fulneck. Apart from this, however, it is undeniable that in the usages of trade, as adapted to this district, the Brethren were too little versed, and were, consequently, unable to cope with competitors outside. The relinquishment of the trading element also necessitated the closing of the house for single men. During the early years of their settlement at Fulneck the Brethren were much subjected to persecution, and were looked upon with a very suspicious eye. Their mode of worship was regarded as Papistical, and the Brethren themselves as Papists in disguise. All this we may now charitably attribute to gross ignorance of the benevolent objects sought to be attained by them; and, as time brought with it a better understanding of their principles, the efforts of this quiet-loving community became appreciated, and ever since they have been held in the highest respect.

The important work carried on in the Yorkshire congregations at home during the earlier years of settlement was only equalled by the missionary enterprise abroad; and Fulneck was then as now a convenient station for missionaries setting out for or returning from heathen lands. Their fields of labour included such geographically remote regions as Labrador and Greenland, Africa, Australia, and the West Indies, to all which countries large numbers have gone from Fulneck. Only recently a son and daughter of the resident minister, Mr. Clemens, left Fulneck, one for Australia and the other for the West Indies.

Many honoured names are associated with the Moravian Settlement at Fulneck, either as visitors or stated labourers. Boehler with his learning, Toeltschig with his unction, Cennick and Ingham with their eloquence, the gifted La Trobe, the benevolent Zinzendorf; Delamotte, Spangenberg, Watteville, Gambold, and Traneker, stand out among a host of others whose memory is blessed. Benjamin La Trobe, and his descendants Christian Ignatius and Peter La Trobe (the latter the composer of La Trobe, Fulneck, and other tunes), and Bishop James La Trobe have all laboured at Fulneck. The former was a popular preacher and a zealous worker in the Moravian cause. He died in 1786 at Chelsea, and such was the esteem in which he was held that there were fifty-eight coaches at his funeral. Joseph La Trobe, a descendant of the above, and an old Fulneck scholar, rose to

be Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria, in Australia. The eminent Dr. Chalmers and the philanthropist Wilberforce have both honoured the settlement with visits. Some also have been educated here whose names stand high in the annals of literature, the foremost being James Montgomery, the poet, who entered Fulneck School in 1777. In the freshness of youth, in the maturity of life, and when at the height of his poetical fame, his voice has often been heard within the hallowed walls. Montgomery, indeed, continued a member of the Fulneck congregation, and regularly attended communion there although residing at Sheffield. A grand-nephew of Montgomery is at present a teacher in the school at Fulneck. Edwin Atherstone, the author of the "Fall of Nineveh" and other poems, who died at Bath, aged eighty years, was another pupil who ever entertained the warmest affection for his *Alma Mater*. John Edwards, who wrote some pleasing poems, was born at Fulneck in 1772. Richard Oastler, the Factory King, was also educated there, and in his old age often visited the place and attended service. He was present at Fulneck when the Centenary Festival was held in 1855, and gave an address. It was interesting to hear the grey-headed man, stooping with age, bear witness with deep emotion to the reality of those truths which he had imbibed whilst a pupil at Fulneck.

The list of ministers, teachers, and officials who have been connected with Fulneck also contains many names of men of great zeal and piety. Following after Traneker, La Trobe, and Hartley, were Charles Reichel, an able school-director and minister for a long course of years; Thos. Mallalieu, who was especially happy in his intercourse with the young people; and John B. Holmes, whose long and active connection with Moravianism was attended with the highest success. As an author the latter is known by his "History of the Brethren's Church," and his "Sketches of Moravian Missions." Like many others of his brethren he is interred at Fulneck. A worthy name, and one still held in veneration at Fulneck, was that of Steinhauer. He it was who raised the style of education given in the schools to so high a position, and made the place so renowned as an educational establishment. Music, both choral and instrumental, has long been cultivated with success at Fulneck. In the beginning of this century, especially, the art was assiduously taught, whereby a strong impetus was given to its cultivation in the whole neighbourhood. The late C. F. Hassé, for many years organist, musical professor, and teacher of languages, had a large share in this musical revival. He was a prized visitor in all the leading families in the district, and is buried at Fulneck.

The Rev. Godfrey Clemens, the present minister, succeeded Mr. Libbey in 1855; and the boarding school has for the past twenty-four years been under the direction of the Rev. J. H. Willey. The assistant minister is the Rev. Joseph Waugh. Mr. W. E. Nelson is estate warden. The congregation now numbers some 300 communicants, exclusive of twenty-six candidates for communion admitted to that sacred rite from the schools during last Easter. Of these several are children of Church of England parents.

Fulneck is a dear old spot to many. When the quiet-loving Moravians settled there doubtless few more congenial places could have been found in Yorkshire, and even now there is an out-of-the-way seclusion about it which it would be difficult to find elsewhere in the neighbourhood. The village is reached from two extremities, and at each a boundary exists, meaning emphatically "No thoroughfare," should occasion require it. A custom prevails yet, we believe, to demand toll from non-residents once a year. A score or two of houses for separate families occupy a position on a higher level, but the buildings forming the settlement, with the exception of the new school, are all situate upon a terrace of considerable length commanding a singularly pleasing prospect. In front are the wooded slopes of Tong, the umbrageous glades of the fine park of the Tempests being seen to advantage. To the left are the dusky ridges of Adwalton Moor, of historic repute in connection with the second siege of Bradford, where in 1643 a sanguinary battle was fought between the Royalists and Parliamentarians. Extensive gardens slope towards Tong valley, down which runs a stream, of which, in the words of its own poetic "lament," it can only now be said,—

"There was a time when I in pureness wound
My pebbly course, with sweetly murmuring sound."

The entire estate comprises about 160 acres, and is throughout its arrangements noted for order and cleanliness. It would be difficult, in fact, for a person unacquainted with the principles of the Brethren to conceive of the regularity which is so conspicuous in everything. The fundamental law which directs an almost total separation of the sexes is still in force among them. The burying-ground is laid out with great exactness, and is kept in scrupulous order; but even in death the sexes are not allowed to intermingle—the husband and wife, the brother and sister, the mother and son are not permitted to repose in the same grave. This separation applying to their Sunday school management, the Brethren a few years ago erected a girls' Sunday school, and in February, 1874, opened a boys' school, which stands in a prominent position above the village street. It is a most

substantial structure in the Italian style of architecture, and cost £1500, which has all been cleared off. The Centenary Jubilee of the Yorkshire congregations was celebrated at Fulneck, Mirfield, Gomersal, and Wyke in April, 1855. The principal Moravian establishments in this country besides Fulneck are at Ockbrook and Fairfield.

Altogether, this little Moravian settlement will well repay a visit, if only to afford a refreshing contrast to the bustle and fuss of ordinary town life.

EIGHTH DISTRICT.

TONG—GOMERSAL.

IN selecting Tong and Gomersal as the last of the many villages noticed in this volume we are conscious of leaving untouched other places equalling if not excelling them in importance, situate within the immediate vicinity. But the subject is a wide one. There is no district in England which contains a greater number of important villages than that under notice, and the line must be drawn somewhere. It will, we think, be scarcely denied that the forty-two places described are fairly representative of the various phases of industrial life within that radius which we first set out to encompass. The circle might have been enlarged with advantage ; but *Necessitas non habet leges*—we must look to the end.

Leaving Fulneck and descending Bankhouse Hill, which in olden times was the principal pack-horse road to Pudsey from the South, we cross the brook, and are within the liberty of Tong, which is in Birstal parish. Tong is usually styled a lordship, and, having long been vested in a family of that name, has been successively transmitted to the Mirfields and Tempests. Tong is the Tuinc of Domesday Book. The general aspect of the country south of Tong Beck is eminently pleasing. The ancient deer park abounds in a succession of swelling grounds and sloping woods of native growth, while the land generally around Holme and Rycroft partakes of the same character. Dr. Whitaker wrote of Tong—"In the midst of manufactures it has preserved its aristocratical character from the earliest times to the present." With that sectarian bias, however, which often mars the writings of this historian, he speaks of the Moravian settlement opposite as a "long protracted line" of buildings, "which cannot be said to contribute to the beauties of Tong."

The Hall, which was one of the earliest specimens of the square-sashed Italian house introduced into this part of Yorkshire, was built by Sir George Tempest in 1702. It is a brick erection with stone dressings, and is three storeys in height. According to Thoresby, it was esteemed in his time a "stately hall," and a Latin inscription commemorated both the munificence of the founder and the skill of the architect. The antiquity of the ruling family of Tong would justify the assumption that a much older residence than the present one had

existed upon their domains, and that such a building did exist there are several corroborative proofs. The site of it is pointed out upon what is known as "The Flats," at no great distance from the Hall. That building is said to have been destroyed by fire. Much of the carved oak wainscoting, however, was preserved, and was utilised in the construction of the seats of the adjoining church, where it may now be seen. The present hall contains many rooms of fine proportions ; and, although it has long been a confirmed "bachelors' hall," its interior arrangements have apparently suffered nothing from this circumstance. The lower rooms contain many valuable specimens of Spanish mahogany and antique oak furniture in beautiful condition ; the walls are deeply wainscoted in oak, relieved by fine examples of oak carved work by Gibbons. Disposed about the walls are many life-size portraits of historic personages, every one of them of strongly-pronounced Royalist type, as may readily be conceived from the well-known sympathies of the late and present owners of Tong Hall. Altogether the collection, which contains fine portraits of Charles I., William III., Prince Rupert, General Monk, Newcastle, &c., is a most notable and valuable one. In the dining-room are contained many family portraits. A noble staircase in elm, inlaid, leads to the upper rooms, the most notable of which is the oak bedroom, every article in which is made from oak grown in the adjoining park. The out-offices are most extensive, and the gardens and hot-houses, at some little distance from the hall, are quite in keeping with such an establishment. Their responsible manager, Mr. Maude, has held his present position for nearly half-a-century.

A reproduction of the Tong pedigree, showing the succession of the lordship and manor from the Tonges to the Mirfields, and subsequently from the latter to the Tempests, while leading us back to remote times, is scarcely necessary here. Authentic memorials (now in the possession of Colonel Tempest) show that the family of Tonge, who, it may be supposed, took their surname from the place, held possessions there about 1200. The first deed, without date, shows that Richard de Tonge held the manor of Hugh Nevill, of Brearley, as lord of the fee. John de Tonge, his son and heir, lived during the reign of Henry III. (1216-72). The eldest daughter of Hugh de Tonge, who lived in the reign of Henry VI., married Robert, son and heir of William Mirfield, of Howley ; and with the Mirfields the estate continued until the reign of Elizabeth, when Eleanor, daughter of Christopher Mirfield, married Henry, son of Sir Richard Tempest, of Bracewell, and thus brought the estate into that family. The baronetcy dates from 1664, in which year the title was bestowed

upon Henry Tempest. A succession of Tempests continued down to Sir Henry, the last baronet at Tong, who was born in 1753. As he left no issue the estate passed to the descendants of his uncle, one of whom, named John Tempest, dying unmarried, the estate went to his sister Elizabeth, who married Thomas Plumbe, Esq., a rich Liverpool merchant, with whose family it still remains. John Plumbe, Esq., son of the above, who succeeded, was Lieutenant-Colonel of the 1st Lancashire Regiment of Militia, and a magistrate of both Lancashire and Yorkshire. He assumed the name of Tempest by sign-manual in 1824, and lived much of his time at Tong Hall. He died on April 6th, 1859, aged eighty-four years, and is interred in Tong Church.

The late Colonel Tempest had a numerous family, of whom Thomas Richard Plumbe Tempest, the present owner of the lordship of Tong and other valuable estates in Lancashire, is the eldest son, and the only other surviving member of his family is Catherina Elizabeth, living at Torquay. The present colonel very early entered the army, serving for some years in the 45th Regiment, and afterwards in the 60th Rifles, from which he retired with the rank of Major in 1837, but has since been breveted Colonel. He is over eighty years of age and unmarried, and lives most of the year at Tong Hall, as did his father before him. In his habits and bearing he is soldierly to a fault; he is studious and scholarly; and in regard to politics prides himself on being a "Tory of the old stamp."

Reverting to John Tempest, the young squire who died unmarried about 1770, there were persons living thirty years ago who could remember the glorious doings when he came of age—how oxen were roasted whole, how the ale brewed on the day he was born was brought out in hogsheads, and broached on the lawn, and how the whole festivities were wound up by a foot-race of Amazons for a new holland smock, which was gallantly won by Peg Mitchell. The "squire's" life, however, was a "short and merry" one. Some time after he came of age he went abroad for the purpose of making the *grand tour*, as was then the custom with young men of fashion. Unfortunately, while on his travels, he formed an acquaintance with a number of young men of his own age, which was the means of getting him into innumerable scrapes, the most serious of which was that of himself and a companion having formed a clandestine acquaintance with two ladies, the inmates of a convent in France, whom they prevailed upon to elope, with the intention of accompanying the squire and his friend to England. In order to effect this a ladder of ropes was fastened to the window of their apartment, by previous arrangement, which one of the ladies no sooner began to descend than, owing

to the insecure fastening, it gave way, and the fair fugitive was precipitated from a great height upon the pavement and killed upon the spot. Her shrieks and the noise of her fall brought the watch to the place, and the squire and his companion were instantly secured. Perpetual imprisonment or the payment of a very heavy fine was the sentence against the delinquents. In order to pay the fine it became necessary to sell a considerable portion of the Tong estate, and to encumber the remainder; and when the Squire returned to the home of his fathers it was evident he was a broken man in health as well as in fortune. He did not long survive his return, and being unmarried, the estate devolved upon his sister, who, as stated above, was married to Mr. Plumbc. That gentleman not only freed the estate from all incumbrances, but repurchased such as was possible of that sold off by the young squire. The entailed estates are very extensive, and comprise nearly the whole of the rural portion of Tong, or above three-quarters of the entire area of the lordship. Since succeeding to the property, while adding somewhat to the estate, and jealously prohibiting manufactories, or in fact buildings of any sort, upon his domains, the Colonel has reaped a rich harvest from the sale of the minerals, which he has disposed of absolutely to the Bowling Iron Company.

For the above reasons, and probably owing to its isolated situation, there is a rural aspect about the village of Tong which is truly refreshing to a townsman, palled with interminable miles of streets. In the words of the late Robert Carrick Wildon (who spent some years of his life in one of the miserable low cottages in Holme Lane):—

“ Here might one dwell and feel supremely blest,
With no companion to disturb his rest ;
No sound is heard, save what from labour springs,
The blacksmith's bellows moan, the anvil rings ;
The lowly cots—so humble and so clean—
Their ancient casements hung with ivy green—
Seem to bespeak the happy homes within.”

The village street, studded thickly with old trees, presents all the features which “imagination fondly stoops to trace” in poetic verse or still more feeble prose. Here is the “rich man's gate” leading through a fine avenue of trees to the stately pile beyond—the “cawing rooks” in “still-repeated circles” screaming loud on every side. Here too is the church, with portly entrance gates flanked on one side by a veritable pair of “stocks,” in good condition ! The “village preacher's modest mansion” is also here, but Episcopacy is in clover at Tong, and hence the parson occupies a modern-built manse next in importance

to the hall itself, and in some respects a more desirable abode. Then we have the village inn, the village school, the old smithy, a wheelwright's shop, the pinfold, and—that is all in the way of institutions, if we except the policeman, who might do worse than purchase the advowson of his quiet living. The village is innocent of gas or other means of artificial illumination in its only street.

Each of the institutions above-named has its associations, did space permit us to dwell upon them. The village school was built in 1736 by Sir Geo. Tempest, and was recently enlarged by the present Colonel. Robert Dalby was the pedagogue for many years, and Samuel Barraclough, now of Drighlington, also wielded the ruler there for above a quarter of a century. The village inn once rejoiced in the name of the Greyhound, and was removed from a little higher up the street to the present house while old Richardson lived at it. With the blacksmith's shop is associated the name of Oddy, whose connection with Tong has extended to probably 200 years. By reference to a settled account for work done for Mr. John Tempest, dated 1763, the Oddys seem to have been the smiths of the village above a hundred years ago. Old John Oddy, grandfather of the present generation, shod the packhorses which, at the above period, carried bread in panniers from the Fulneck bakehouse to Gomersal, Wyke, and other places. To do this he had to be at Fulneck by four o'clock on a winter's morning, carrying sixteen shoes ready sharpened, besides his tools, and bringing a set of shoes back to re-sharpen. Another John Oddy, who lived to his 88th year and died in the house in which he was born, prided himself upon "dewing a bit" as long as he was able; and he has been succeeded by a second and third of his name.

There is little about the exterior of the church to attract attention. It is a plain building, with square tower, and was rebuilt in 1727, chiefly at the cost of Sir George Tempest, who built both the hall and the village school. John Nelson, the Birstal Methodist preacher, says in his journal—"The first time I ever saw my wife was at Tong, where I was going to build the new church. I did not know who she was, nor where she came from; but, at first sight, I said in my mind, 'That is the woman I asked of God in prayer;' and I fully determined, if I got married, I would live to His glory." The church is dedicated to St. James. Previous to 1867 it was called a "parochial chapel," and paid a yearly acknowledgment of £2 to the Vicar of Birstal for synodals, and 5s. to the churchwardens of the same place, under the name of "rogue's money," but in the above year it was created a vicarage. The living has been much increased of late, and is now worth between £700 and £800 a-year.

Many generations of Tongs, Mirfields, and Tempests are interred in the body of the church and in the private vault attached, in which there is an ancient piscina, indicating that some part of the structure existed previous to the Reformation. The pulpit and pews are of fine black oak, and, as previously stated, many of the seats of the latter are made out of carved panels of oak taken from the old hall. Opposite the south door is the family pew of the Tempests, raised so high from the floor that a fixture of three steps is required when the family come to church. Affixed to the wall, close by, there is a small diamond-shaped slab of oak, containing a peg of the same material, which has been left as a relic of the cocked hat period. This peg was put up upon which to hang the beaver of the then steward, Mr. Brown, who lived at Hill Green Farm. He died in 1743, and his funeral was attended by Sir George Tempest and fifty-two of the tenants. Mr. Brown left an annuity of £6 to be divided yearly as follows :—40s. to the curate, for teaching the children of Tong the Church Catechism ; £3 to the schoolmaster ; and 20s. for repairing the church clock. The poor of Tong have also the benefit of a yearly rent-charge of £11 out of Hatfield Hall estate, near Wakefield, left by Isaac Bowcock, in 1669, for apprentice fees and distribution to poor persons not in receipt of relief. Bowcock's tombstone lies near the sun-dial in Tong churchyard.

Nothing reliable is ascertainable as to the origin of the churches (for there are said to have been two) erected prior to the present one. From the construction of the existing tower arch, which partakes of the style prevailing between the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, it is supposed to be a remnant of the church or chantry of that period. By the courtesy of the present vicar we were shown the registers, which commence from 1550, eight years before those of the parish church of Birstal, and earlier, probably, than any in the neighbourhood. To the church antiquary the early history of Tong Church would form a most interesting study. The following have been incumbents during the present century :—The Rev. Wm. Hammerton (a good preacher and a kind-hearted man, but in other respects a type of village parson happily fast dying out) ; Rev. Wm. Dixon, who died at Tong ; Rev. Chas. M. Turner, now of Aldboro', Cheshire ; Rev. C. W. Markham, rector of Saxby, Lincolnshire ; and the Rev. Chas. Farrow, B.A., who has held the living since 1866. There is a handsome vicarage, appropriately erected on a piece of land called the Priest's Close, and which has superseded the old parsonage adjoining the church. The graveyard is full of gravestones, many of them of very ancient date and elaborately carved. Side by side lie generations of Nettletons.

Balmes, Whiteheads, Reyners, Denisons, Steads, and Websters. The oldest stone that we could find records the death of William Baynes, of Holme, in 1653.

Excepting the now thickly-populated fringe of the lordship bordering upon the Wakefield Road and extending almost from Dudley Hill to Westgate Hill, the land is still chiefly agricultural, and abounds with homesteads about which another chapter might be written. Among these may be named Hill Green (in the neighbourhood of which it is firmly believed an undefinable quantity of gold lies concealed), Gib Stubbing, Calverley Clough, Scholebrook, Holme Shay (dated 1616), Rycroft, and Tyersal Gate. For the present it must suffice to notice one or two families from whom have sprung persons of note.

The Nettletons of Rycroft appear to have been owners of that and other estates in Tong for many generations. One of the earliest tombstones in the churchyard is in memory of Francis Nettleton, who died in 1661. The name, we believe, is now only perpetuated in connection with that of Balme, through the marriage of Joshua Balme to Judith, daughter of Nicholas Nettleton. Some little romance attaches to this marriage, which, owing to their supposed superiority in station, was objected to by the Nettletons. The two lovers sat in adjoining pews at Tong Church, and in order to prevent love's telegraphy from hastening the match, a high partition was erected between the two pews. But love, which "laughs at locksmiths," soon overrode an oaken partition. The lovers ran away and returned happy! Upon the death of his wife's brother, Joshua Balme succeeded to the Rycroft and other estates, until his eldest son, Nettleton, arrived at age, when, under the will of his grandfather, Nicholas, he came into possession. He had three sons and two daughters. First, John, whose third son was Charles Balme, an extensive woolbroker in London for many years, who died in March last; second, Dr. William Nettleton Balme, of Chester Castle, Jamaica, and captain of a Jamaica Rifle Corps; and third, Jeremiah Nettleton Balme, who died in 1857 at Gloucester, in the cathedral of which city a handsome memorial window is placed as an indication of the esteem in which he was held. Francis, youngest son of the above Joshua and Judith Balme, had three sons and one daughter, the youngest son being Mr. Matthew Balme, of Bolton, in this borough. Mr. Balme has long been an untiring advocate of factory reform. Along with the Rev. G. S. Bull he ranged himself under the banner of Sadler, Oastler, and others in 1831, and subsequently of Lord Ashley, now the Earl of Shaftesbury, with whom he has, we believe, maintained a confidential correspondence to the

present time. He is probably the only unbroken link of Yorkshire advocates who has lived to see the present fruition of that important measure, the Ten Hours' Factory Act. Some years ago he was presented with a handsome testimonial in recognition of his services, the contributions to which included the pennies of the factory children and the guineas of the late Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. Longley).

The Balmes appear to be of French origin. Having come from France as refugees during the persecution of the Huguenots, they located themselves in the De Bevoir, near Islington, in the immediate neighbourhood of which suburb they built Balme Hall and Balme Square. One portion of the family afterwards came into Yorkshire, and from them sprang Abraham Balme, of Tyersal Gate, as well as the Rev. Edward Balme and Abraham Balme, gentleman, whose monument by Flaxman adorns the walls of the Bradford Parish Church, and to whose extensive property in Bradford the present Edward Wheatley Balme, Esq., succeeded. Joshua Balme, who married Miss Nettleton, was the eldest of the family of Abraham Balme, of Tyersal Gate, Tong. Two of Joshua's brothers appear to have removed to Bradford, one of whom, John, became a manufacturer of some celebrity about the middle of last century, and built the house at Little Horton, subsequently occupied as a Baptist college, until the removal of the latter to Rawdon. Abraham was also a manufacturer. John Balme had four children, viz., Elizabeth, who was married to a Mr. Broadley, who lived in the house in Kirkgate upon the site of which the bank of the Bradford Banking Company now stands, and died in 1825, bequeathing large sums for charitable purposes, including £5000 to the Horton Baptist College; John, who was partner with Mr. Broadley, a wool-stapler of some note, died unmarried in 1815; Sarah, who died unmarried in 1828, leaving the bulk of her property to her sister, Mrs. Bacon (the fourth child), who, in accordance with her wish, soon after made over to the trustees of the Independent Academy, then at Idle, some valuable property at Undercliffe and Fagley. On the property at Undercliffe, the present Airedale College was erected in 1833. Mary (Mrs. Bacon) died in 1853, leaving, amongst other charitable bequests, £1000 each to the British and Foreign Bible Society, the London Missionary Society, and the Home Missionary Society; also £12,000 to be devoted to the relief of aged and infirm ministers, their widows and unmarried daughters.

A very different locality is Tong Street, which abuts upon Wakefield Road, to the rural part of the township. Although doubtless all the land about Cutler Heights, Dudley Hill and Tong Street (or Street-side) once belonged to the ancient family of Tong, it has now passed

into other hands. The brothers William and John Terry bought largely of land in this direction some years ago. The Bowling Company are likewise large holders, as are also the Leathams of Wakefield, their property mostly lying about Cutler Heights and Tyersal Gate. The population of the whole lordship of Tong was, in 1871, 4229, 3663 of which lay in the urban, and 566 in the rural part of the district. The area of the lordship is 2657 acres, 628 acres of which form the urban or Local Board district. Of the rateable value, £10,481 belongs to the urban, and £6823 to the rural portion. The Tong Street Local Board district was defined in July, 1871. In old times this part of the lordship was noted for making worsted tops, the chief dealers in which were the Holmes family and the Tetleys. Worsted spinning, weaving, and machine combing are now extensively carried on, the principal firm being that of Mr. Matthew Mirfield, of Westgate Hill.

Gomersal is an important and, what is more to our purpose, a representative township. Possessing varied industries, its commercial interests are nevertheless becoming more closely identified with those of the metropolis of the worsted trade, and the connection will doubtless continue to strengthen. It is also a centre around which any observations of outlying places will naturally cluster. The township of Gomersal is in the parish of Birstal, but by a singular arrangement the latter place has no township of its own name, and is comprised in that of Great and Little Gomersal, which also includes the hamlets of Birkenshaw, Spen, Westgate Hill, Fieldhead, and Drub. In the Domesday Survey Birstal does not appear, but Gomersal is described as two manors, Birstal being probably one of them. There are reasons for supposing that in early times Gomersal, with the rest of the parish of Birstal, formed part of the old Saxon parish of Morley, and that Robert de Lacy founded the church of St. Peter's at Birstal, on account of the old parish church at Morley being at the other extremity of the district. Of the former structure, however, there are no remains, the late fabric being of no higher antiquity than the reign of Henry VIII. In 1870 Birstal Church was restored, at a cost of £18,000. For seventy-four years, dating from 1801, the living was held by but two vicars, and both of the same name—the Rev. W. Margetson Heald, the late vicar, who died in September, 1875, having succeeded his father in 1836. The Rev. John Kempe is the present vicar. The Master and Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge, are appropriators of the great tithes, and are considerable landowners in the parish.

Most of the townships and villages in Birstal parish are so ancient as to have existed at the Conquest, and hence we find that "In Gomersall, Dunstan and Gamel had four carucates of land to be taxed, where there may be six ploughs. Ilbert (de Lacy) has it, and it is waste. Value in King Edward's time, forty shillings." It is strangely illustrative of the fearful depopulation which had taken place at that time in the parish that of the several places named only one, Liversedge, contained any inhabitants, and even there only "five villanes and two bordars" were left on the soil. According to "Kirkby's Inquest," among the earliest holders of land in Gomersall under the De Lacy family were Johannes Tylly, who held six carucates, and William le Vavasour, who held two bovates under his tenure. That was during the reign of Edward I. (1272). This extract is of little interest beyond showing that some substantial increase had taken place in the amount of cultivable land between the taking of the Domesday Survey in 1086 and the last-named period. A carucate of land was an undefined quantity, varying with the nature of the soil, but is generally estimated at about 100 acres. Accepting this estimate, an increase of even 200 acres brought under cultivation would in those times be an appreciable quantity, and there might be other landowners than John Tylly, too small to be taxed. The land or common near Westgate Hill was under interdict and thrown out of cultivation in King John's time, and has remained so ever since.

As early as the year 1284, it may be presumed, the weaving of cloth constituted one of the arts of life practised in this locality, as in the Hundred Rolls of that period mention is made of one Evam, a weaver of Gomersall, being confined in the prison of Bradford, apparently for debt. Passing on to the time of Henry the Eighth, we meet with the names of Edward Coppelay, Thomas Roger, Robert Nayller, Gilbert Gudayll, James Byrkby, and John Greer as the substantial men liable to contribute to the subsidy raised to aid the Sovereign in his war with the French King. Descendants of the above may now be found in the immediate district. During Henry VIII.'s reign the manor would appear to have been held, along with the manors of Heckmondwike and Heaton, near Bradford, by Henry Batt, of Oakwell Hall. He was a person of considerable influence, and was keeper of the courts of Sir Henry Savile, of Thornhill. John Batt, the last of the family residing at Oakwell Hall, died in 1707, and his widow married for her second husband John Smyth, Esq., of Heath Hall, Wakefield. Only the fabric of their family residences remains to associate the Batts with this neighbourhood. The manorial rights were held at the close of last century by Mr. Terry, from whom

they were purchased along with the Gomersal Hall estate by the brothers Sigston; and now vest in Mrs. Booth, a relative of theirs. Of late years the principal landed proprietors in both Gomersals have been the Wentworth family, Sir Charles Ibbetson, the Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge, Mr. Joshua Taylor, Mr. Thomas Burnley, Mrs. Booth, and Mrs. Hirst. The Ibbetson estate at Gomersal was disposed of nearly thirty years ago. Mr. Stansfeld, father of the late County Court judge at Halifax, and grandfather of the Right Hon. James Stansfeld, M.P., was formerly a large proprietor of land, his property extending from Spen Beck and Hill Top to Little Gomersal. It was sold about 1807.

The old staple trade of Gomersal—the manufacture and merchanting of army cloth—has almost left the village, only one firm being now engaged in it. In the early part of the century the merchants were Joshua Taylor, Lionel Knowles, Joseph and Edward Swaine (the latter manufacturers also), all of Great Gomersal; and Henry Rhodes, of Little Gomersal. The manufacturers, carrying on their business chiefly at their own houses, or on premises adjacent, were Benjamin Fearnley, John, Thomas, and Joseph Crowther, the three brothers Sigston, S. Scott, Samuel Scholefield, Thomas Pearson, W. Hammond, and John Blackburn. These clothiers attended the Leeds White Cloth Market twice a week, selling their cloth in the “balk,” or raw state, the merchants dyeing and finishing the same. The trades now carried on are various, consisting of the manufacture of worsted yarns (which is of some standing in Gomersal), army cloth, blankets, cotton, woollen machinery, chemicals, cards, and felting. The coal measures have long been worked in the neighbourhood, but much of this mineral still remains to be got.

Parochial affairs in Gomersal, after having passed through a period of lethargic quiescence, have recently entered upon a new phase, doubtless with advantage to the community. The adoption of the Local Government Act by places all around left Gomersal, Great and Little, to the watchful oversight of the “rural sanitary authority” of the Dewsbury Union, which, if possible, met the requirements of the place even worse than the old township Highway Board. Another course remained, however, namely, for the ratepayers of Gomersal to form a Local Board of their own, or submit to a portion of the district being annexed to Cleckheaton, leaving the remainder probably to be divided amongst the neighbouring boards. This alternative was received with some hesitancy, but further partition was not to be thought of. Hence in May, 1875, a Local Board was formed, which now consists of the following members:—Mr. Frank Burnley (chairman),

Messrs. Wm. Houghton, Joshua Taylor, Thos. Broadbent, Daniel Carter, Samuel Jackson, Benj. Longbottom, Samuel Knowles, J. S. Ellison, Wm. Greenwood, Miles Hanson, and Benj. Craven. The clerk is Mr. C. P. Pickersgill, the collector Mr. John Shaw, and the medical officer Mr. H. O. Steele. The Local Board district comprises Great and Little Gomersal and Spen, having a population of about 4000, and a rateable value of £13,860. The population of the township of Gomersal in the first year of the present century was 4303. In 1831 it was 6189, distributed as follows :—Birstal hamlet, 2663 ; Gomersal Little, 1046 ; Gomersal Great, 1760 ; Birkenshaw, 720. In 1871 the township contained 12,880 persons, and of this number 6044 were in Birstal, 4003 in both Gomersals, and 2833 in Birkenshaw. As an earnest of their good intentions the Local Board have secured a loan of £7368 for drainage purposes, and a further sum, making the total £10,000, is expected.

Gomersal-Magna, as it is called in old documents, is without question the most unlike a manufacturing village of any within the radius compassed in this series of papers. It abounds in vegetation,

“ From the broad majestic oak

To the green blade that twinkles in the sun.”

Favoured in situation, it has the advantage of taking in the high land between the Cleckheaton and Birstal valleys, while its rich lowlands give evidence of long cultivation. On the higher side of the road leading from Birkenshaw is an almost continuous succession of gentlemen's houses, each surrounded by ornamental grounds and plantations. The dwellings on the lower side are of the usual village type, the ancient and the modern shouldering each other with evident familiarity. Many of the houses are of brick of very enduring character, and this material is still used to some extent, but generally it is being superseded by stone. Little Gomersal, which is only divided from its neighbour by the Leeds and Elland Road, is equally favoured with respect to situation, but is not so richly clothed with vegetation. It overlooks the basin in which Heckmondwike is situated, and commands extensive views of Mirfield, Hanging Heaton, and the “shoddy” country around Batley. Little Gomersal promises, however, to be the most populous portion of the district, owing to land being more available for building purposes. In the old part of the village the houses are of brick, and mean in construction, but those of more modern erection are generally built of stone.

Entering Gomersal by the new road from Birkenshaw, constructed in 1826, abundant material is at hand for a long gossip on its former aspect and the men of yore who inhabited the sparsely scattered

houses ; but a few passing notes must suffice. To the left is Moor Lane Hall, for generations associated with the Wormalds, one of the oldest resident families in the township. This family have long been connected with the banking firm of Child & Co., in the City, and have also been engaged in the Dewsbury trade. Having acquired great wealth, the late John Wormald, Esq., became a large purchaser of land, chiefly in the Birkenshaw portion of the township, and his son is now the largest landed proprietor. Wheatleys, close by, is the residence of William Ackroyd, Esq., J.P., the head of the Birkenshaw firm of worsted manufacturers and colliery owners. His brother Thomas has but recently completed a large mansion in a commanding position nearer to Birkenshaw. A great breadth of land purchased by the above gentlemen formerly belonged to a family named Boden, but the merest vestige now remains to call their descendants owner. Wheatleys was built by Mr. Thomas Walker, and Oakwell House by his brother, Mr. Joshua Walker, in 1805 and 1806 respectively, both brothers having formerly lived at Popeley Farm.

Moor Lane, from which the above hall takes its name, is chiefly notable as a very ancient highway, and was probably trod by the earliest inhabitants of Gomersal. Until about forty years ago there was a nice strip of land on each side which was, however, claimed by Messrs. Sigston as manorial rights, and sold by them for cottage buildings. Consequent upon this two ancient "butts" were destroyed, which, in times before firearms were known, were used for archery practice. They must have been many centuries old. Near the top of Moor Lane stands Peel House, an antique residence which has weathered the storms of just three centuries. The old town's school in Moor Lane has for some time been turned to other uses than that for which it was intended, and its affairs generally seem to be involved in some obscurity. The Primitive Methodists have a neat chapel and school in Moor Lane, built in 1872. Near the bottom of the lane are the Broadroyd Felt Works, of modern erection.

Approaching towards Gomersal we are introduced by past associations to the family of Knowles, who in their day took a leading position in the army cloth trade, once the special feature of Gomersal. Evidences of the rich gains that trade brought to the army contractors of the past are not wanting in the existence of such residences as West House, Tenlands, Follingworth House, and Stringer House, all of which were built by the Knowles family. Besides these, members of the same family occupied Low House. Their warehouses in what is familiarly called Knowles Lane still remain in part untenanted—silent monuments of the fickle nature of trade. Clough Mill, used by them

for dyeing and scribbling, was purchased of the Crowthers, who had been much longer engaged in the cloth trade than the Knowles family. As early as 1765 a Lionel Knowles was settled at Gomersal, and had four sons, of whom Lionel and John engaged in business as cloth merchants at Gomersal; Charles and Christopher, the other two brothers, were butchers and farmers, the former at Tadcaster and the latter at Tong. Christopher was the ancestor of that branch of the Knowles family connected with the firm of Knowles, Houghton & Co., several of whose descendants still reside in Gomersal. Lionel Knowles, the father of the late Lionel and Hartley Knowles, by his great energy and perseverance, soon took a foremost position in the cloth trade. As large contractors for the supply of army cloth to the Government, Lionel Knowles and his immediate successors were the means of bringing much trade to Gomersal, many of the small cloth-makers being dependent upon them for orders. Whether in their business or social relations this family earned the esteem of their neighbours. Both Mr. Knowles, senior, and his family succeeding him were Dissenters, and attended the old Red Chapel at Cleckheaton and Upper Chapel, Heckmondwike.

A youthful genius, who owed to his rare talents a high position among the poets of Yorkshire, sprang from this family, and was born at Gomersal in 1798. His name was Herbert, and he was the son of Mr. James Knowles, brother of Lionel Knowles, sen. Herbert's father and mother both dying when their children were young, he and his two brothers were taken charge of by their relatives. Herbert and his brother Charles lived with their aunt, Mrs. Phillips, of Pollard Hall, and by her were sent to Mr. Horsfall's school at Gomersal Hall. There being no Independent chapel at Gomersal then, Mr. Horsfall, his boarders, and many others, regularly attended the old Red Chapel at Cleckheaton, taking their dinners with them, and partaking thereof in the vestry. During the interval of service, it is said that Herbert, then very young, not unfrequently delivered a short address to those present. After leaving Mr. Horsfall's school, it was intended that he should enter a merchant's counting-house at Liverpool, but his talents becoming manifest, a subscription was raised, and he was sent to Richmond Grammar School. Whilst there the lad evinced poetic talent of no ordinary kind, but his friends being unable to contribute further towards his education, he called genius to his aid. Composing a poem, he sent it, with a statement of his case, to Southey, then Poet Laureate, asking permission to be allowed to dedicate it to him. Finding in the poem evidences of rare ability, Southey entreated him to avoid present publication, and promised to do something better than

receive his dedication. Towards the £30 required for the young poet's education he at once subscribed £10, and procured the remainder from the poet Rogers and Lord Spencer. Thus befriended Herbert continued his studies, but in a short time the hopes which he had excited were quenched by a sudden illness, ending in death in February, 1817, when he was only nineteen years of age. He left behind him a volume of manuscript poems, some of which were published in the *Literary Gazette* of 1824. The late Mr. Charles Knowles, Q.C., who for so long a period was connected with the Northern Circuit, was Herbert's brother, so it is evident the family were possessors of varied talents. No representative of this branch of the Knowles family now resides at Gomersal, and their property has passed into other hands.

Arrived at the junction of the new road with the top of Moor Lane, we are reminded by the long pile of empty warehousing in front of two rich old bachelors named Sigston, who were among the old stock engaged in the army clothing trade. Their residence was in the "fold" opposite West Lane, in the house dated 1634. In the same fold is another ancient place with the initials I. K. and the date 1659. John Crowther, another old clothier, lived in this house. Thomas Crowther, a member of the same family, lived at the old house at the bottom of West Lane. The Gummersalls, a third clothing family, dwelt in the remaining house in Sigston Fold. We are the more careful to awaken recollections of these former residents because they and the houses which they inhabited were fairly representative of Gomersal as it was in the beginning of the present century. Very few of the houses which now line the road, either to right or left, were then built, and in other respects the village street had an appearance far different from that which it now presents. The Sigstons made much money, which they invested in land. Amongst their purchases they bought the Gomersal Hall estate of Mr. Terry, and with it the manorship. The hall was rebuilt by Dr. Booth, the husband of the present Mrs. Booth, who with Mrs. Hirst, of Croft House, are the present representatives of the Sigston family.

Grove Independent Chapel, with the parsonage adjoining, occupies a conspicuous position in the main street, a short distance beyond. Gomersal was one of the places visited by Oliver Heywood, who mentions having kept a "fast" there on October 20, 1679, together with Mr. Dawson, Mr. Holdsworth, and others. This circumstance, taken in connection with others, is sufficient indication that Gomersal was in very early times a seat of Nonconformity, or perhaps from its retired position it was rather a retreat for harassed Nonconformists. These "fast-day" services, commemorative of occasions of sorrow,

were often held in the old persecuting times in convenient centres, to which people walked or rode for many miles in quest of spiritual food, and not unfrequently extended to six or seven hours, with but a brief interval for refreshment. In the diary of the Rev. George Larkham, who was driven by the passing of the Act of Uniformity from Cockermouth to seek refuge at Gomersal, we read :—"September 2, 1663.—My wife and Thomas, my son, came to Gomersall to my uncle Pollard's, there to sojourn with me for a time." Pollard Hall is only a short distance from Grove Chapel. In the early part of the century several families from Gomersal attended the old Red Chapel at Cleckheaton, and Upper Chapel, Heckmondwike, taking their dinners with them, which generally included what was known as "chapel cake." In the year 1826, however, a united effort was made to build a chapel at Gomersal, on land given by Mr. James Burnley. The building cost upwards of £1300. The original school-room was built at the sole expense of Mr. Burnley. The chapel was enlarged in 1842, the minister's house was built, and the school-room increased to its present dimensions, on land also given by Mr. James Burnley. The remainder of this land forms the burial-ground in the rear, and more recently a valuable strip was given by the family of the late Mr. Thomas Burnley for widening the southern access to the chapel. A new organ was introduced in 1864, having cost £300, and during 1876 an addition has been made to the school-room at a cost of over £600. The ministers who have held the pastorate of Grove Chapel have been the Rev. J. Hall Cooke, whose useful labours from the year 1827 to his death in March, 1845, will long be held in respect; the Rev. Archibald McMillan, who left for Taunton in 1866; and the Rev. J. A. Savage, who in the same year succeeded, and remained till his death on New Year's Day, 1872. The present minister, the Rev. Charles Craddock, commenced his duties in January, 1873.

The Wesleyan Chapel in West Lane was erected in 1827, and in a great measure owes its existence to Edward, better known as "Squire," Brooke, a noted local preacher, then living at Honley. It is a singularly plain building with semi-circular frontage, which, while taking off the square, factory-like appearance so common in Dissenting places of worship, admits of a graceful curve being given to the pews inside the chapel. The interior of the edifice presents a very neat appearance, and there is a beautifully-decorated organ. The adjoining school-room is also a commodious building. The United Methodist Free Church body have a chapel (the outcome of the Reform movement) at Birdacre, a short distance from the last-named place of worship.

A little beyond the bottom of West Lane stands the Mechanics'

Institute, which occupies a handsome building, erected in 1851 upon the site of a few old cottages. The cost was about £2000. Being the only public building in Gomersal, it is used for meetings, lectures, and concerts, when public spirit or requirement rises to such occasions. The institution from which the building takes its name has during the past quarter of a century done good service in the village. It has now about 100 members, and a library of 1800 volumes.

Passing the Mechanics' Institute, we arrive at a brick house of substantial appearance, with neatly-kept lawn in front. This has for generations been the abode of the Taylor family, who are now the only representatives of the once numerous class engaged in the army cloth trade in Gomersal. Their mills and dyehouse are at Hunsworth; but the warehouse still adjoins the residence. A peculiar interest attaches to this house, as it is already immortalised in "Shirley,"—in the opinion of critics the best fruit of the pen of Charlotte Brontë. The real events described in that fiction took place in the immediate neighbourhood. Rawfolds Mill, the "Hollows Mill" of "Shirley," celebrated for its successful and sanguinary resistance to the Luddite rioters on the 11th of April, 1812, under its proprietor, Mr. Cartwright, is just over the Gomersal boundary. Roehead, where Miss Brontë went to school, is not far from Kirklees; "Briarfield," of which that "clerical Cossack" Helstone was rector, is Liversedge, the Rev. Mr. Roberson being the original of that character; at Birstal Vicarage lived the "Mr. Hall" of "Shirley," and Oakwell Hall, Shirley's residence, can be seen from the village street of Gomersal. As described in the novel, "Briarmains" will be found to correspond with this old residence of the Taylor family. In it Charlotte Brontë spent many happy hours with her friend, Mary Taylor, and in it lived Joshua Taylor, the enterprising and intelligent manufacturer, whose character is drawn so admirably in "Shirley" under the name of "Mr. Yorke." He was a man of great energy, and became rich by trade, but was of a peculiar turn of mind. In the latter respect, however, he only resembled his progenitor who built the brick chapel in Gomersal, and had a following, if he was not the founder of a sect. In a neglected corner, closely adjoining to the brick chapel (now converted into cottages), lie the remains of fourteen persons, who formed part of the little congregation worshipping there. The following portion of an inscription, copied from one of the gravestones, is strongly tinged by that acidity of sentiment which pervaded the character of "Hiram Yorke":—

"Isaac and Judy Smith, his wife, lie buried here. Judy died Dec. 3, 1815, aged 80. Isaac died June 22, 1816, aged 84. They were among the first founders of

Methodism in this county, but finding that body declining in sincerity, and the Conference seeking dominion and wealth more than the glory of God in the salvation of men, they separated from the society, and in consequence of this exercise of superior principle they were neglected and insulted by the Pharisees of the age."

The brick chapel was occasionally used for preaching by the Independents before their chapel was erected. Both it and the adjoining graveyard still belong to the Taylor family, the present representative of which is Mr. Joshua Taylor, whose father and mother, and grandfather and grandmother are all buried in a little wood upon a portion of their property. Another institution associated with the Taylors was Gomersal Bank, which was founded by Mr. Joshua Taylor ("Mr. Yorke"), but was given up about the year 1825. Another family named Taylor lived at Latham Hall, of which one member, John, was a cloth manufacturer in an extensive way of business, and built Broadyard House.

The next residence to Mr. Taylor's is Pollard Hall, an Elizabethan mansion overgrown with ivy, and so picturesque in appearance as to arrest the attention of most passers-by. The date of its erection, 1659, and the initials of a former resident, Tempest Pollard, are enduringly preserved in the old oak entrance door, which is in itself a study. In 1844 Pollard Hall, with the adjoining estate, was purchased from Sir Charles Ibbetson, of Denton-in-Wharfedale, by the late Thomas Burnley, Esq., whose predecessors had resided there for many years, extending over the lives of three generations. Mr. Burnley resided at the hall until his death in May, 1863. Under his supervision Pollard Hall underwent considerable alterations, the primary object being, however, to restore to it its original character, more particularly as to the interior of the house. Mr. Burnley was also an extensive collector of antique furniture, and the results of his judgment and researches are manifest in every room of the hall. The grounds in front are most tastefully laid out, and extend for some distance to the left of the highway, where a small glen, planted by Mr. Burnley, now forms a very secluded dell.

Arrived at the junction of the roads leading to Little Gomersal, Birstal, and Cleckheaton, the visitor may take a survey of the district, having in full view the town of Birstal, of all places perhaps the most irregularly built. Near the cross roads stood the shop of John Stead, who was a maker of "shear frames." These machines being held in much aversion by the Luddites, Stead's shop was guarded day and night during the troublous times of 1812. Mr. Charles Carr, a celebrated lawyer, resided at the good house at Hill Top; and he in

turn is succeeded by his sons, Charles and William, who continue the profession. The house is surrounded by pleasant grounds, which extend down to the churchyard.

The church of St. Mary the Virgin, Gomersal, occupies a commanding position overlooking the Cleckheaton valley, and was erected in 1851, mainly through the exertions of the present incumbent, the Rev. M. S. Daly, M.A., who was instituted to the district in 1848. The district (formed under the Peel Act) was taken from that of Birstal, and comprises Great and Little Gomersal. The church is an excellent example of the Flowing Decorated Style, wherein solidity and decoration have been happily blended. Its appearance, however, would have been improved if the tower had terminated in a spire. In 1864 a new transept and vestry were built, and an organ added, the illumination of the latter being executed by a London artist at the expense of Mr. Mann, of Spen Bank. The stained work of the east window, which is in five compartments, is by Ward & Hughes, of London. The west window is also filled with stained glass, the gift of the "artisans, teachers, and scholars of the school." A window in the south aisle was filled in with the same material in 1869, and dedicated by Sir Charles Henry Firth, of Flush, Heckmondwike, "in humble submission to the will of God, and in memory of Ada, Lady Firth," who unfortunately perished in the month of May, in the river Wharfe, near Bolton Abbey, at the early age of twenty-five. The cost of the edifice was about £4000. The value of the living is £185, and the presentation is vested alternately in the Crown and the Bishop of Ripon.

Gomersal Mills are situate on the crest of the hill opposite the church. The premises are often called the Cloth Hall, owing to the circumstance that they were built in the anticipation of a cloth market being established at Gomersal many years ago. Tradition has it that a cloth mart did in fact exist at Gomersal before Leeds could boast of possessing one. Gomersal Cloth Hall was built on Sir James Ibbetson's property, by the subscriptions of clothiers and others, it being stipulated that if it ceased to be used as a cloth market, it should revert to the Ibbetsons. This it did, and Mr. Carr, their agent, took a long lease, and converted one wing of it into a cotton mill. He was not successful in business, and in 1808 Messrs. Swaine, to whom he owed largely, took possession of it and used it as a woollen mill till 1850. In 1844, however, the premises were purchased from Sir Charles Ibbetson by the late Mr. Thomas Burnley, and after Messrs. Swaine's lease had expired, were occupied by him in the manufacture of knitting worsted and Scotch fingering yarns. The Burnleys have

been in the worsted trade for four generations. So early as 1752 the business was carried on by William Burnley; in 1800 by William Burnley & Sons; and afterwards by James Burnley and his sons Thomas and William. Since the year 1855 the business has been carried on by the firm of Thomas Burnley & Sons, the present partners being Thomas William and Frank Burnley, by whom the works have been considerably enlarged and completely remodelled. This firm are now the largest ratepayers and employers of labour in the village.

William Hirst, locally known as "Billy Hirst," ran a portion of the Cloth Hall Mill while it was under the Swaines. Although commencing in a very humble way, he so far succeeded in business as to be able to build Butts Mill, which he continued to occupy for some time in the army cloth trade. He also built Marsh House, where he lived for many years. Mr. Hirst was a man of considerable energy and ingenuity, but those qualities did not descend to his sons, who succeeded to the business. Messrs. Mortimer Bros. occupy the brick factory lower down Spen Lane, as worsted spinners and manufacturers.

Spen, or Spen Bank, lies on the declivity towards Cleckheaton. The corn mill here, rebuilt a few years since, was formerly owned and managed by a family named Mann. Mr. Henry Mann, who still resides at Spen Bank, just above the corn mill, is the younger son of the late Mr. Joseph Mann, who was brother to Messrs. Thomas and John Mann, two of the earliest Bradford stuff merchants, one of whom built Mannville, Horton Road, and the other Springfield, now the residence of Mr. Behrens. Mr. John Mann was the first patentee of the new invention for supplying cork legs and artificial limbs. The owners of Spen Mill are now Messrs. Firth and Blackburn. At Drub, a small hamlet of Gomersal, are the chemical works of Messrs. Cowburn and Crowther.

From the cross roads at Hill Top forward to Little Gomersal fifty years ago there were only two or three dwellings. At Crow Trees lived Dr. Sykes, and at Bunker's Hill Mr. Charles Carr until his removal to Hill Top in 1808. Another Mr. Carr was a surgeon at Little Gomersal. Drs. Sykes and Carr during their professional career divided the practice of the surrounding district between them. A spiteful attempt was made some years ago to spoil the prospect of Crow Trees by erecting in front of it an ugly edifice, with hideous stone corbels "making faces" at the occupants of the opposite house. In the gardens behind the house there is an immense rhododendron, which is somewhat of a marvel in arboriculture. This dark-foliaged shrub was planted by Mr. Edward Swaine, who resided here, in 1830,

and now measures nearly fifty yards in circumference. It is in fine health, and blooms profusely. Near Bunker's Hill is Fieldhouse, the residence of William Crowther, Esq., J.P., the founder of the extensive chemical works close at hand.

Pleasantly situated in Little Gomersal is the Moravian Chapel, which was erected in 1751, nine years after the introduction of Moravianism into Yorkshire. The chapel has been once or twice enlarged ; lastly in the year 1869, when about £1000 was spent upon it. The style adopted is Elizabethan, but the new building is not at all in harmony with its wings. The Rev. J. G. Kaltofen is the present minister. A girls' day school existed from 1758 to 1764, and a ladies' boarding school which was commenced in 1792 is still carried on. The girls' Sunday school dates from 1816, and that for the boys from 1820.

The National School at Little Gomersal, built about forty years ago, has been in great measure superseded by the fine new schools erected at Hill Top in September, 1874, a plot of land worth £450 having been granted for that purpose by the Seniority of Trinity College, Cambridge, who own the property in the immediate neighbourhood. The style of architecture is Gothic. The schools cost about £2500, and were opened free of debt. The Wesleyans have a school-chapel in the Town Gate, Little Gomersal.

The large machine works of Messrs. Knowles, Houghton & Co. are situated some little distance below the Moravian Chapel. From very small beginnings these works have during the past thirty years acquired a considerable reputation for the manufacture of machinery used in the woollen trade. A single glance round the works is sufficient to mark the immense progress made in the fabrication of woollen goods since the introduction of shear-frames, leaving out of question the earlier stages of the process. The firm employ about 350 workpeople, and are the largest employers of adult labour in the village. Closely adjoining the last-named premises is the manufactory occupied by Messrs. Henry Roberts & Son, in the Bradford trade. The remaining manufacturing works in Little Gomersal are the scribbling mill of Messrs. Firth, Burroughs & Co. ; the cotton spinning and doubling works of Mr. Daniel Carter ; and the chemical works of Messrs. W. Crowther & Sons. All the above are large concerns.

The Gomersal Gas Company was formed in the year 1847, the first directors being Messrs. Edward Swaine, John Hirst, Samuel Sykes, Samuel Porritt, Thomas Burnley, Benjamin Ellis, James Houghton, and James Knowles. It was registered as a limited company under the Joint Stock Companies' Act in the year 1856, and incorporated by

Act of Parliament in 1865. The present directors are Messrs. Frank Burnley, William Ackroyd, Thomas Broadbent, J. S. Ellison, William Berry, and William Longbottom. The capital is £16,520. Water is supplied to Gomersal from the mains of the Bradford Corporation, whose immense reservoirs have been of great benefit to many of the districts lying near to Bradford.

There are several places of interest around Gomersal, and among them Oakwell Hall, which is a building rich in historic lore, and is besides one of the best specimens of the halled-house of the sixteenth century existing in this neighbourhood. The date upon it is 1583. Oakwell Hall is but a short distance from Adwalton Moor, famous as the scene of a terrible struggle between the Royalists and Parliamentarians in 1643, when, under the command of the Earl of Newcastle, the former gained a short-lived advantage. On that occasion the camp of the Parliamentarians was at Westgate Hill, and that of the Royalists at Drighlington. It is generally believed that Sir Thomas Fairfax retreated by Warren's Lane past Oakwell Hall on his way to Halifax, the old Lord Ferdinando and Major-General Gifford retiring to Bradford. During this retreat the hall was entered by the Royalists in search of Republicans, to the great terror of Mrs. Batt, who had just been confined, and of her nurse. So scared was the latter that, snatching up the child, she fled with it for security to Pontefract.

The family of Batt has been previously referred to as one of influence, but Henry Batt, the builder of Oakwell Hall, appears to have been a most eccentric and unprincipled character. By an inquisition taken at Elland in 1601, he was found to have appropriated to his own use moneys which had been left him by the previous Vicar of Birstal for erecting a school; also to have pulled down and sold the great bell of Birstal Church, and to have demolished the vicarage house thereunto standing in the churchyard. Both the stealing of the bell and the demolition of the vicarage seem to have been prompted by that spirit of mingled rapacity and revenge which prevailed soon after the Reformation. However, in the reign of James I., the successor of Henry Batt, the spoliator, had a decree for compensation made against him, and to this day a fine, imposed for the sacrilegious act, is paid by the owner of Oakwell Hall. In a bed-chamber of the hall a bloody footprint is shown. Thereon "hangs a tale" which is told with great exactness, the very day and hour being given. Leading to the hall is (or rather was, before the present owners replaced many of the former fine specimens by younger plants) a short avenue of sycamores, which is called the "Black Walk" or "Bloody Lane," from its being haunted by the ghost of Captain Batt, a former proprietor of the hall.

In the dusk of the evening, on December 9, 1684, the captain being supposed to be far away, a figure came stalking up the lane, through the hall, and up the stairs into the captain's room, where it vanished ! That very afternoon Captain Batt had been killed in a duel in London !

The Oakwell property, which is even yet of great extent, passed out of the hands of the Batts early last century, and afterwards came into the possession of another celebrity, Fairfax Fearnley, Esq., a sessions lawyer of great repute and indomitable spirit. In the great hall hangs a pair of stag's horns, with a label recording the fact that on September 1st, 1763, a great hunting match took place at Oakwell, when this stag was slain, and fourteen gentlemen dined off the spoil in the hall. Among the number were Major-General Birch and Sir Fletcher Norton, Attorney-General. In Birstal churchyard there is a grave-stone with the following singular epitaph, composed by Fearnley, which was at Oakwell ready cut long before the death of him whom it commemorates :—

“ This is to the memory of Old Amos,
Who was, *when alive*, for hunting famous,
But now his chases are all o'er,
And here he's earth'd of years fourscore.
Upon this stone he's often sat,
And tried to read his epitaph :
And thou who does so at this moment
Shalt, ere long, somewhere lie dormant.

Amos Street, huntsman to Mr. Fearnley, of Oakwell,
departed this life Oct. 3d, 1777.”

Sufficient has been already advanced to mark Oakwell Hall as a place of more than ordinary interest ; and to this it may be added, that it is understood in the neighbourhood to be the place described in “ Shirley ” as “ Fieldhead,” Shirley's residence. Its irregular architecture ; the broad, paved approach leading to the porch ; the panelled hall, with carved stag's head and real antlers looking down grotesquely from the walls ; the gallery on high, admitting to the best chambers ; the drawing-room of delicate pinky-white ; the enclosure in the rear, half court, half garden—are all described in that wonderfully realistic story by Charlotte Brontë, and still remain intact. Upon the death of Fairfax Fearnley his sons threw the estate into Chancery, out of which it was purchased by a London lawyer, named Barker, two of whose nieces were married to a Mr. Ray and Mr. Oliver, and their representatives still hold the property. A subsequent tenant named Rawnsley spent much time and money in attempting to discover “ perpetual motion,” and almost ruined himself by the pursuit. That portion of

the Oakwell estate extending southwards to Birstal Church, and nearly to Gomersal, was sold in 1805 to Mr. Joshua Walker, and his brother-in-law, Mr. Wm. Gomersall, of Birstal Rectory. The hall has for some years been occupied as a ladies' boarding school.

At Fieldhead, which is but a short distance from Oakwell Hall, was born in 1733 Dr. Joseph Priestley, equally distinguished for his discoveries in chemistry and his Socinian writings. His father, Jonas Priestley, was a cloth dresser of Calvinistic persuasion, and for some time after his son's birth, lived in a small house which has since been pulled down, when he removed to the large brick house now occupied by Mr. Clapham, farmer. In the occupancy of the Clapham family it has remained for several generations. In the neighbouring village of Birstal, it will be remembered, was born John Nelson, noted as a contractor for the masonry of docks, &c., under Government, but more especially for the part he was afterwards destined to take in the promotion of Methodism in its earlier stages.

Birkenshaw, one mile west of Gomersal, is a rapidly-increasing village, and, if space permitted, ample materials might be gathered in connection with it to form a very complete history. From the "Autobiography of Thomas Wright" some interesting particulars may be gleaned of the life and manners of the people of this district during the latter half of last century. At that time it must have been a very dreary place. There is a lane which has long been called Kirkgate at Birkenshaw, leading up to an ancient cross on the hill. The fact of this cross being on the hill must have given rise to the name Kirk (church) gate, as there was not, until a few years ago, any church at Birkenshaw. In a previous paper we had occasion to notice the existence of the cross as an evidence of a pre-church period. The father of the late Emmanuel Emmet, Esq., of Final Royd House, had a foundry and ironworks at Birkenshaw in the last century, before either Bowling or Low Moor were established. The first blast engine at Low Moor (which is still preserved) was made by Emmet, and bears an inscription to that effect. The Coles and Billingsleys, formerly of the Bowling Ironworks, were in the employ of the Emmets before they came to Bowling. Birkenshaw Furnace was "blown out" sixty years ago. The Emmet family, although non-resident, are large landowners in Birkenshaw, but the largest are the Wormalds, of Moor Lane. The Ellisons are also an old Birkenshaw family, and have been engaged in both the worsted and coal trades. The principal manufacturing firm is that of Messrs. Thomas Ackroyd and Sons, worsted spinners and manufacturers. Connected with it is

the firm of Messrs. Wm. Ackroyd & Bros., colliery owners and timber merchants. In the latter businesses the firm of Messrs. J. & W. Harrison is also largely engaged. With Westgate Hill is prominently associated the name of Oddy, the firm of Messrs. James Oddy & Sons, woolstaplers, being one of the oldest and largest houses in the Bradford trade. The church of St. Paul at Birkenshaw was built in 1829, the ecclesiastical district connected with it also comprising Hunsworth. It is a prominent landmark in the district, and is in the lancet Gothic style, with tower and spire at the west end. The parsonage-house was built and five acres of land purchased by subscription and Queen Anne's Bounty at a cost of £2000. The east window of the church was erected by the parishioners in memory of the Rev. H. J. Smith, for thirty years incumbent of the church. The National Schools were built in 1838, and enlarged in 1851. The village also possesses a Wesleyan Chapel erected in 1870, which is a neat example of the Italian style of architecture. The United Methodist Free Church was also erected in 1870, on Furnace Hill, formerly the property of Mr. E. Emmet. Birkenshaw has a separate Local Board. The population is now about 3500.

Hunsworth is also in Birstal parish. Here are the dyeworks and large woollen mills of Messrs. Joshua Taylor & Co. In 1839, the minerals under the estate of the Earl of Scarborough in this township were purchased by the Bowling Company. The field consisted of 1200 acres. The Company disposed of the coal not suitable for iron smelting for household purposes, the fuel being conveyed by means of a tramway to a staith made for that purpose near the Golden Lion Inn, in Leeds Road, Bradford. The trustees of the Savile or Scarborough estate are lords of the manor.

And now we must cease our wanderings, leaving to others the task of supplying any omissions. It is some satisfaction to reflect that in return for much persevering labour, many facts have been rescued from an undeserved oblivion, and now form part of that general fund of information common to all. A reasonable ground for satisfaction also exists in the probability that through the perusal of these pages many persons may be induced to take a livelier interest in the past history and traditions of their native place. If any appreciable amount of local patriotism be thus evoked, society in general will be the gainer, for as Southey has it, "Whatever strengthens our local attachments is favourable alike to individual and national character." If, however, it

be necessary to divulge a leading motive which actuated the writer in preparing these sketches of village life and industry "round about Bradford," it may be found expressed in the following lines by a native poet, to the sentiment of which we heartily subscribe :—

" I've loved thee, Yorkshire, since mine infant sight
Caught the first beams of animating light,
Thy Saxon tongue, to polish'd ears uncouth,
In guile unpractised, but allied to truth ;
Thy hardy sons who know with equal pride
To chase the shuttle or the plough to guide ;
Thy thrifty wives, thy daughters ever dear,
Thy hearty welcome to their simple cheer ;
Thy cottages, where honest virtues dwell,
Yorkshire ! whate'er thou art, I love thee well !"

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